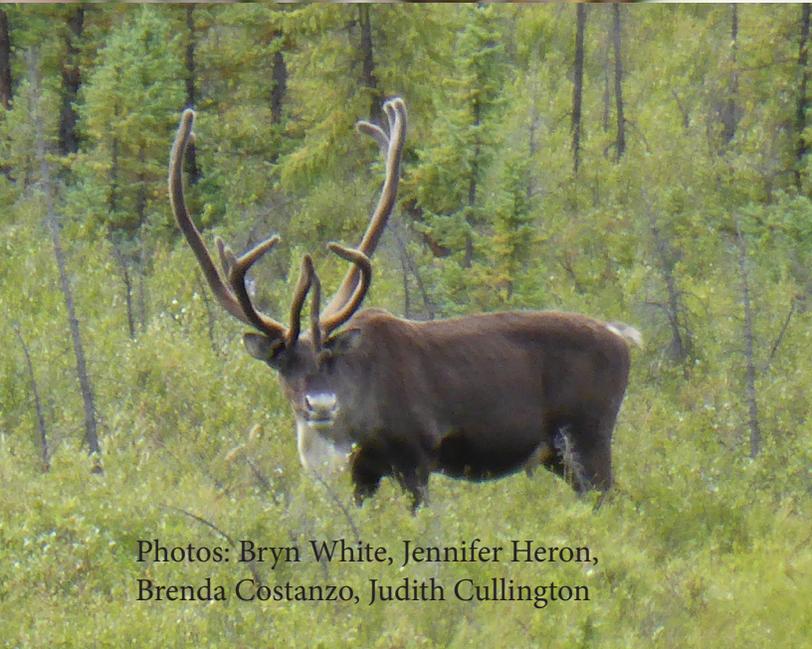


**SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEMS AT RISK
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP
SYMPOSIUM 2013**

October 7-8, 2013
Richmond, BC



Photos: Bryn White, Jennifer Heron,
Brenda Costanzo, Judith Cullington

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INTRODUCTION

The 2013 Species and Ecosystems at Risk Local Government Working Group (SEAR LGWG) was the third gathering of its kind since the group first formed in 2009. This Symposium was held to provide local government representatives an opportunity to

- ⇒ learn more about how local governments and others are providing incentives to landowners for conservation of species and ecosystems at risk on private and local government lands;
- ⇒ contribute thoughts as part of a provincial SEAR incentives project, which is developing recommendations to the provincial government for potential opportunities for private landowners and local governments to protect habitat for species and ecosystems at risk; and
- ⇒ network with their colleagues from around the province.

About 60 delegates attended the meeting, including representatives from local governments, federal and provincial governments and some conservation organizations. (See Appendix A for a list of delegates.)

The symposium was made possible by the Ministry of Environment and the South Coast Conservation Program's grant from the Real Estate Foundation of BC. Thank you to our funders!

DAY 1: SENIOR GOVERNMENT UPDATES

BC Ministry of Environment: James Quayle, (Manager, Ecosystem Conservation) welcomed participants. Lynn Campbell, Species and Ecosystems at Risk Biologist and facilitator for the SEAR LGWG, provided an update on provincial activities (see Appendix B for slides). Highlights include:

- ⇒ There are now about 140 local governments participating in the working group, up from 90 last year (awesome!);
- ⇒ Ministry of Environment will be sending letters to mayors and regional chairs to provide more information on the working group and species and ecosystems at risk challenges;
- ⇒ Discussions with local governments in northern BC have identified new participants in the group, although much of the species and ecosystems at risk focus in northern BC is on Crown lands;
- ⇒ Many local governments have provided input into their progress on discussion paper recommendations, encourage others to provide their feedback to ensure Province is focusing on key priorities;
- ⇒ Ministry of Environment continues to work with other Ministries to coordinate action on species and ecosystems at risk recommendations;
- ⇒ There are many regional conservation groups (e.g., Kootenay Conservation Program, South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program, Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program, South Coast Conservation Program, Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team, Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership) playing key roles;
- ⇒ Province-wide conference calls are becoming unwieldy with large numbers of participants, propose that future calls will be regional, with provincial updates provided by email;
- ⇒ The name "SEAR LGWG" is long and not an easy acronym. Other comments and suggestions welcomed!

Lynn later provided an overview of a paper prepared by Terri Blackburn with an initial discussion on the benefits and challenges of various incentive programs, which are needed in B.C. as much of the species and ecosystems at risk are found on private lands. This report was emailed to the SEAR LGWG participants.

Canadian Wildlife Service: Blair Hammond, Manger of Ecosystem Conservation provided an overview of federal incentive programs (see Appendix B for slides), including:

- ⇒ Alaskan National Wildlife Area – farmers provide habitat improvements in exchange for rental fees
- ⇒ Ecological Gifts – income tax benefits for donation of ecologically sensitive lands, now over 66,000 ha conserved
- ⇒ Habitat Stewardship Program – funds about \$2 million per year for projects that support critical habitat for species at risk; conducting an ecological goods and services pilot on agricultural land with financial incentives for protecting species at risk
- ⇒ North American Waterfowl Management Plan and joint ventures – focus on migratory birds, example of the Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust
- ⇒ Stewardship agreements (SARA Section 11) – most focus on agriculture for now, but could expand to forested lands.

Update on Discussion Paper recommendations

The 2011 discussion paper “[Working Together to Protect Species at Risk: Strategies Recommended by Local Government to Improve Conservation on Municipal, Regional and Private Lands in British Columbia](#)” recommended five strategies to support conservation of SEAR on private and local government lands. Participants voted on the strategies they felt were currently the highest priority for action as follows:

1. Increase local government awareness of SEAR (23 votes)
2. Facilitate use of effective tools and techniques (30 votes)
3. Identify and collaborate on shared responsibilities (37 votes)
4. Conduct ecosystem mapping and encourage data sharing (25 votes)
5. Engage landowners in species and ecosystems at risk habitat protection (58 votes)

It was noted that there is now greater emphasis on landowner engagement.

Tofino, Winner of UBCM Community Excellence Award for Biodiversity



One discussion paper recommendation was that UBCM provide a community excellence award for biodiversity conservation. Tofino won the 2013 Award for its conservation activities on the Wah-nah-jus Hilth-hoo-is mudflats, and provided a video that highlighted this work.

Photo: Meredith Gutowski Morehouse

<http://www.whsrn.org/sites/default/files/images/tofinolandscape.jpg>

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: NANCY OLEWILER

Nancy Olewiler is the Director of the School of Public Policy and Professor at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia. She gave a comprehensive overview of incentives to protect species and ecosystems at risk (see Appendix B for slides). Highlights included the following.



- ⇒ The economy is part of the environment, without the environment the economy does not exist.
- ⇒ Goal of incentives is to protect public and private lands, to integrate the good actions people take with a mechanism to pay for it.
- ⇒ There is no magic solution, there are multiple solutions.
- ⇒ There aren't enough people in this field, and enough funding to get things going. So we need a system of metrics, and to be accountable for what we do. We need to show value for money.
- ⇒ Why should private landowners pay for something that is a public good? Paying people encourages them to participate but also shows that there is an economic value for ecosystem services, i.e., that ecosystems drive value in the economy. It helps to connect the dots with those that are willing to pay and invest in nature.
- ⇒ Investments in species and ecosystems at risk can save money (e.g., reducing runoff with natural landscapes) – saves communities and insurance companies from flooding damage. How do you capture that value?
- ⇒ Regulation and incentives can and should work together.
- ⇒ It can be hard to measure what value should be set for incentives – e.g., a property tax credit set at 65% of property price, but would a 20% credit be enough, or would a 70% credit increase the number of conservation easements? Needs study.
- ⇒ Should we consider something like a cap and trade system for ecological goods and services (e.g., provide incentives for maintaining/improving ecosystem function)? Complex to implement, but could be effective. Could development impact fees be charged on loss of water, airspace, etc. Systems like wetlands mitigation banking store up ecosystem values and you purchase them from someone else in the form of an 'offset'.
- ⇒ Most incentive programs in Canada are pilots with fixed price payments. Australia is experimenting with reverse auctions, a sophisticated and complex approach.
- ⇒ Investment in upgrading ecosystems, with dividends (ecosystem benefits) that pay back over time. This type of approach tries to capitalize environmental externalities in land management.
- ⇒ Subsidies cost a lot of money and don't add value. Challenge is that there is no way we can tell if we are getting value for money. Also – where does the money come from?
- ⇒ Moving forward needs political leadership and more education on the benefits of protecting species and ecosystems at risk. There are policy window openings with interest in climate change, water pricing, food security and healthy lifestyles.

PRESENTATIONS ON INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

A series of presenters gave an overview of incentive programs they are involved with. Summaries of these programs are included in Appendix C (with slides in Appendix B where used). Speakers and topics were:

- ⇒ Local government funded programs: **Dave Hillary** (Kootenay Conservation Program's Local Conservation Fund) and **Lynn Wilson** (Capital Regional District's Park Acquisition Fund)
- ⇒ Cost-sharing: **Christine Terpsma** (Delta Farm and Wildlife Trust)
- ⇒ Payment for ecological services: **Dave Zehnder** (Ecological Services Initiatives Project)
- ⇒ Mitigation Banking: **Todd Cashin**, City of Kelowna (Mission Creek Restoration Initiative)
- ⇒ Environmental Farm Plans: **Geoff Hughes-Games** and **Dave Trotter**, BC Ministry of Agriculture (BC Environmental Farm Plan Program)
- ⇒ Marketing and Eco-certification: **Costanza Testino**, Pacific Salmon Foundation (Salmon Safe) and **Marion Town**, Fraser Basin Council (Salmon Safe)
- ⇒ Payment for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvements: **Frank Corey** (Whatcom County Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and a local county program)
- ⇒ Tax Incentives: **Jennifer Eliason**, Islands Trust Fund (Natural Areas Protection Tax Exemption Program) and **Blair Hammond**, Canadian Wildlife Service (Ecological Gifts Program)

BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

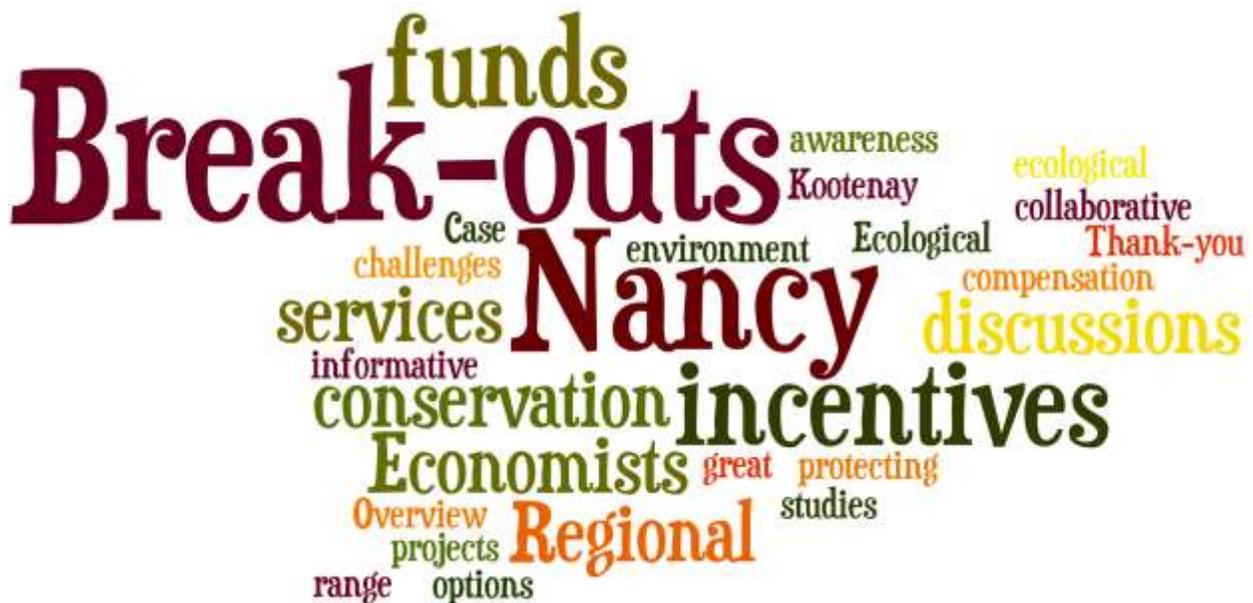
Participants worked in small groups to discuss key strengths and challenges of the various incentive types, as well as barriers to expanding this type of incentive and who could help to overcome those barriers. Summaries are provided in Appendix D.

At the end of the first day participants were asked about their most fun moment and what they enjoyed learning. The "Wordles" on the following page summarize this input.

Most fun



Learned About



DAY 2: REGIONAL UPDATES

OKANAGAN REGION

Alison Peatt, Susan Latimer, Todd Cashin, and Margaret Bakelaar provided an update of activities in their region (see Appendix B for presentations). Actions include:

- ⇒ Environmental education and outreach (e.g., parks programs, websites)
- ⇒ Habitat identification in regional growth strategies, working with Okanagan Basin Water Board
- ⇒ Ecosystem mapping – Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory for Okanagan regional districts
- ⇒ Shared environmental planner helpful for small communities
- ⇒ Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP) and South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) include 80+ conservation organizations – multiple funding partners – developing a regional strategy that includes mapping, recommendations for government action, guidance document
- ⇒ Mapping includes conservation rankings and connectivity opportunities
- ⇒ 60% of area is high priority ecosystems, highest in south Okanagan, ecosystem connectivity at risk

GARRY OAK ECOSYSTEMS RECOVERY TEAM

Chris Junck gave an update on Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team activities:

- ⇒ Many resources available, e.g., Garry Oak Gardener’s Handbook, Garry Oak Bylaws (companion to Green Bylaws Toolkit), comprehensive restoration guide
- ⇒ Trying to inventory Garry Oak ecosystems in all communities, information currently scattered
- ⇒ Providing workshops for parks staff and others – help in identifying species at risk, threats, and BMPs for invasives removal
- ⇒ Back to the Roots project working with landowners – naturescaping to create connectivity

SOUTH COAST CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Jenna Bedore, Tamsin Baker and Kaitlin Kazmierowski provided South Coast updates (see Appendix B for presentations):

- ⇒ The South Coast Conservation Program (SCCP) is a multi-partner program, works at a landscape (ecoregional) level
- ⇒ Dialogues with local governments
- ⇒ One program focuses on sand ecosystems, prepared a brochure and field guide. Several site specific projects (e.g., Savary Island, Boundary Bay)
- ⇒ Landowner contact program for Pacific Water Shrew, in future will expand to many other species at risk. Focus on maintaining and improving wildlife habitat on private land.

STEWARDSHIP CENTRE OF BC

DG Blair provided an overview of Stewardship Centre activities (see Appendix B for presentation):

- ⇒ Major projects include Species at Risk Primer, Green Shores Program and Community of Practice workshops
- ⇒ Online Species at Risk primer includes listing by local government and Forest District, linked to Conservation Data Centre.
- ⇒ Includes simple summaries on species and management practices; also groups species by threats – e.g., cat predation, road kill.
- ⇒ Riparian guides for volunteer stewards – threats and actions that landowners can take, restoration of riparian buffers.

REGIONAL BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The purpose of the regional breakout sessions was to allow each of the regions in attendance to review the recommendations for local governments within the Discussion Paper and collectively determine:

- A. Which local government recommendations are/have already been done
- B. Which local government recommendations are priority gaps

SCCP South Coast Breakout Summary

Participants from the South Coast of BC discussed how their respective municipalities have been addressing the recommendations from the LG discussion paper. This included a chance to share information about specific initiatives that are underway in the region and the barriers, challenges and possible solutions encountered, to date. Most of the discussion focused on identifying regional priorities going forwards. Some of the priorities include:

- *Public*: community-based social marketing. Arrange focus groups to determine what resonates with the public, with a specific focus on youth.
- *Policy*: embed SAR and other issues within larger Ecosystem Approach. Set spatial priorities within a community (i.e. public parks and usage tying in with public health and water quality issues). Pick solutions that provide multiple benefits.
- More tools for reaching and educating council members and senior staff.
- Look into establishing a Conservation Tax Fund.

Follow up on these items and others will take place in the form of sub-regional dialogue sessions hosted by the South Coast Conservation Program. Session dates are as follows:

FVRD session: October 31st, 2013 at the REACH Gallery in Abbotsford.

Metro Vancouver session: November 7th, 2013 in Burnaby

SLRD session: November 12th, 2013 at the Whistler Library

SCRD session: November 13th, 2013 location TBD

Vancouver Island Breakout Summary

Discussions largely focussed on reviewing the responses that had been provided to date and working to hear from the remaining local governments. Two great suggestions to help achieve 100% participation were to:

1. simplify the format from Excel spreadsheet to an online survey model
2. use a buddy system that would involve LGs who have already filled in their comments to identify neighbouring LGs or other LGs they are in regular communications with, who have not yet responded, and help them fill in and return their responses to Lynn



Note: Lynn will be sending out the recommendations in the new survey format for your feedback, if you've not already provided a response.

Okanagan Breakout Summary

Susan Latimer provided an overview of the Guide being developed to support strategic design and implementation of a connectivity plan for the Okanagan Region (see presentation in Appendix B). The guide will talk about the importance of connectivity, explain fragmentation and its impacts, and provide tools and case studies for local governments. Susan is still accepting comments on the final draft for those interested in contributing.

Next steps for the Okanagan group include:

- ⇒ Holding a joint Conservation Program (SOSCP and OCCP) Annual General Meeting;
- ⇒ Creating a communication strategy to motivate actions to benefit species at risk (potentially involves re packaging species-specific focus to emphasize benefits to public priorities like water quality);
- ⇒ Identifying Okanagan Region priorities for stewardship/acquisition/securement (possible focus on private land; some priorities already identified but need to coordinate groups and agencies across the region to identify a coordinated approach and make all parties aware of this);
- ⇒ Working on enhancing funding (priority to work on conservation funding through local government); and
- ⇒ Work on building opportunities and programs that provide incentives to participate in land conservation (again a private land focus, but might include other jurisdiction as well).

Overall valley wide priorities include a focus on working with landowners and acting to conserve land parcels on the ground (more doing; less planning). Areas that particularly deserve additional planning as well as implementation: wetlands, foreshores (lakes) and connectivity.

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY

Presenters were:

City of Richmond

- ⇒ Lesley Douglas, Manager, Environmental Sustainability
- ⇒ Rich Kenny, Community Facilities Programmer
- ⇒ Andrew Appleton, Environmental Coordinator

Others

- ⇒ Ian Lai, Program Director, Richmond Schoolyard Society
- ⇒ Sofi Hindmarch, Wildlife Biologist, Simon Fraser University

Fourteen participants toured Richmond's Terra Nova Rural Park (<http://www.richmond.ca/parks/parks/SigParks/parkinfo/park.aspx?ID=80>) to see riparian (ditch) maintenance and agricultural land stewardship practices in action.

- ⇒ The City of Richmond showcased different features of the site such as: community gardens, fallowed fields used by raptors and migratory birds, forested area, wetlands, reclaimed reed canary grass fields, and riparian areas.
- ⇒ The different guides discussed their work and answered questions regarding the challenges they have faced and ways they have addressed those challenges.
- ⇒ With respect to the stewardship practices we focused on, a few discussion highlights include:
 - The importance of understanding different parties' perspectives (e.g., rationale behind different ditch maintenance mowing regimes), and being flexible while communicating often about the results you hope to achieve and why;
 - Having early conversations with those working on the property about the important features of the site, from an environmental perspective, to avoid unexpected issues (e.g., contractors disposing excess soil on an empty field not realizing its habitat value);
 - Looking for opportunities now to address future needs, e.g., designing habitat features with consideration to how they might benefit drainage / flood protection; and
 - The significance of creating a diverse space that allows the community to engage with stewardship and enhancement practices).

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: ATTENDEES

Name	Region / Provincial Ministry	Agency / Local Government
Jenna Bedore	South Coast	South Coast Conservation Program
Tamsin Baker	South Coast	South Coast Conservation Program
Joanne Neilson	South Coast	South Coast Conservation Program
Andrew Appleton	South Coast	City of Richmond
Kimberley Armour	South Coast	Squamish
Heather Beresford	South Coast	Resort Municipality of Whistler
Tanya Bettles	South Coast	City of Abbotsford
Margaret Birch	South Coast	City of Coquitlam
Matthew Connolly	South Coast	District of Kent
Angela Danyluk	South Coast	Corporation of Delta
Lesley Douglas	South Coast	City of Richmond
Erin Embley	South Coast	Metro Vancouver RD
Kaitlin Kazmierowski	South Coast	City of Richmond
Markus Kischnick	South Coast	City of Surrey
Lance Lilley	South Coast	Fraser Valley Regional District
Jeffrey Paleczny	South Coast	Town of Gibsons
Julie Pavey	South Coast	District of North Vancouver
Lise Townsend	South Coast	City of Burnaby
John Worthen	South Coast	Metro Vancouver RD
Christine Terpsma	South Coast	Delta Farm and Wildlife Trust
Kristina Robbins	BC Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) (Surrey)	
Malissa Smith	BC MFLNRO (Surrey)	
Kym Welstead	BC MFLNRO (Surrey)	
Melanie Wilson	BC MFLNRO (NE, Fort St John)	
Dave Hillary	Kootenays	Kootenay Conservation Program
Dave Zehnder	Kootenays	BC/Alberta Ecological Services Initiative
Margaret Bakelaar	Okanagan	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Todd Cashin	Okanagan	City of Kelowna
Alison Peatt	Okanagan	Shared Environmental Planner, SOSCP
Susan Latimer	Okanagan	Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Grant Furness	BC MFLNRO (Penticton)	
Josie Symonds	BC MFLNRO (Penticton)	
Judith Cullington	Vancouver Island	City of Colwood
Marnie Eggen	Vancouver Island	Islands Trust
Jennifer Eliason	Vancouver Island	Islands Trust Fund
Kate Emmings	Vancouver Island	Islands Trust Fund
Marilyn Fuchs	Vancouver Island	Capital Regional District
Rob Lawrance	Vancouver Island	City of Nanaimo
Adriane Pollard	Vancouver Island	District of Saanich
Richard Walker	Vancouver Island	Colwood
Lynn Wilson	Vancouver Island	Capital Regional District
Dave Haley	Vancouver Island	Retired forester

Name	Region / Provincial Ministry	Agency / Local Government
Chris Junck	Vancouver Island	Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team
Darryn McConkey	BC MFLNRO (Nanaimo)	Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership
Nancy Olewiler	Simon Fraser University	
Frank Corey	Whatcom County Conservation District	
David Hendrickson	Real Estate Foundation of BC (Vancouver)	
Maria Stanborough	Union of BC Municipalities (Vancouver)	
Costanza Testino	Pacific Salmon Foundation (Vancouver)	
Marion Town	Fraser Basin Council (Vancouver)	
DG Blair	Stewardship Centre for BC (Bowen Is)	
Geoff Hughes-Games	BC Ministry of Agriculture (Abbotsford)	
David Trotter	BC Ministry of Agriculture (Abbotsford)	
Kim Sutherland	BC Ministry of Agriculture (Abbotsford)	
Lynn Campbell	BC Ministry of Environment (Victoria)	SEAR LGWG Coordinator
Alec Dale	BC Ministry of Environment (Victoria)	
Jennifer Heron	BC Ministry of Environment (Victoria)	
Michele MacIntyre	BC Ministry of Environment (Victoria)	
Kari Nelson	BC Ministry of Environment (Victoria)	
Katrina Stipek	BC Ministry of Environment (Victoria)	Conservation Data Centre
James Quayle	BC Ministry of Environment (Victoria)	
Stacey Wilkerson	BC MFLNRO (Victoria)	
Blair Hammond	Environment Canada - CWS (Delta)	
Jan Kirkby	Environment Canada - CWS (Delta)	
Danielle Prevost	Environment Canada - CWS (Delta)	
Andrea Tanaka	Environment Canada - CWS (Delta)	

APPENDIX B: SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

APPENDIX C: SUMMARIES OF INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

APPENDIX D: INCENTIVE BREAKOUT GROUPS

APPENDIX E: EVALUATIONS

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX B: SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Environment

Species and Ecosystems at Risk Local Government Working Group 3rd Symposium

7-8 October 2013, Richmond

Lynn Campbell, BC Ministry of Environment
SAR Biologist & LGWG Coordinator



BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Environment

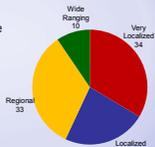
What is the SEAR LGWG?

- A forum for communication, consensus and collaboration on SEAR issues in BC
- Provincial and regional levels of involvement
- SEAR protection on **private and LG lands**
- Over 140 participants so far
- Elected and staff welcome

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Environment

Challenge: Protecting SEAR on private land

- 6% of British Columbia is private land
- High proportion of SEAR on private land
- UBC and Ipsos polls suggest strong public support



BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Environment

Engagement to Date

- Partnership between municipalities, RDs, UBCM and provincial government
- Coordinated by MoE with joint decision-making by LGs
- Over 140 members
- Current biases: technical/environment professionals; southern BC



BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Environment

The Regional Districts of BC

- 23 / 29 RDs in BC
- 62 municipalities



BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Environment

Progress to Date

- 1st Workshop – March 2010
- Presentations to UBCM Env. Cmt.
- UBCM Convention – Sept 2010
- PIBC SAR workshop – Oct 2010
- Discussion Paper** completed – Jan 2011
- Discussion Paper presented to SAR Task Force
- 2nd Workshop focus on next steps – Feb 2012



BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Environment

Progress to Date – cont.

- UBCM Exec. Cmt. **formally endorses** Discussion Paper recommendations – Mar 2012
- Terms of Reference** finalized – May 2012
- PIBC Conference – May 2012
- Advisory Committee** established – Jan 2013
- Contract to scope **north region** – Spring 2013
- Regional SEAR LGWG calls** – ongoing



BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Environment

Discussion Paper Strategies

Five strategies to support conservation of SEAR on private and local government lands:

1. Increase local government awareness of SEAR.
2. Facilitate use of effective tools and techniques.
3. Identify and collaborate on shared responsibilities.
4. Conduct ecosystem mapping and encourage data sharing.
5. Engage landowners in species and ecosystems at risk habitat protection.

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Environment

SEAR LGWG Regions

- 6 regions
- Varied in SEAR capacity
- Broaden SEAR discussion & build on existing work by including regional CPs/NGOs
- Rely on your feedback!



BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Environment



Recommendations for Province

- All regions represented
- Initial call spring '13
- 23 recommendations:
 - LG awareness: 6
 - Effective tools & techniques: 3
 - Shared responsibilities: 6
 - Mapping & data sharing: 5
 - Engage landowners: 3

Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Ministry of Environment

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Environment



SEAR LGWG Regions

- Teleconferences to date:
 - South Coast
 - Okanagan
 - Thompson
 - Vancouver Island
- Excel spreadsheet responses to date (25/140):
 - South Coast: 8
 - Okanagan: 6
 - Vancouver Island: 11
- More detailed review on 8th Oct



11

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Environment



Next Steps

- Continue to work with prov agencies on SEAR
- Inclusion of SEAR LGWG in related projects (e.g. incentives)
- Consider best approach for:
 - Continue to work with the regions
- inclusion of remaining communities
- logistics of province-wide LGWG interaction



12

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Environment




Questions & Discussion

Visit http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/searl_cwvg/ to see the SEAR LGWG webpage!
Lynn.Campbell@gov.bc.ca

Environment Canada

Update on Federal Incentive Programs

Species and Ecosystems at Risk Local Government Working Group




Blair Hammond
Canadian Wildlife Service
7 October, 2013



Alaksen NWA: We farm too...

- Agreements with local farmers allow for active agriculture for 2 out of 5 years.
- Cover crops are planted after harvest for the benefit of migrating waterfowl and to enhance soils.
- Standing barley is left for one year then hay/pasture is maintained for 3 out of 5 years for wildlife use, before crops are again planted.
- Farmers provide services for field and habitat improvements in exchange for rental fees.



Environment Canada

Stewardship First on Private Land

- 17 September: Min. Aglukkaq announces intention to use first ever emergency order under the Species at Risk Act
- The new proposed restrictions will not affect activities on private land nor restrict grazing on Crown lands
- EC's approach is stewardship first and we back that up with incentives



Environment Canada

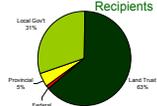
Federal Incentives & Funding Programs for Habitat Conservation

- Ecological Gifts Program (EGP)
- Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP)
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) & Habitat Joint Ventures
- Stewardship Agreements (SARA section 11)
- Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR)
- EcoAction
- Natural Areas Conservation Program (NACP)
- Wildlife Habitat Canada Stamp Initiative
- Environmental Damages Fund (EDF)
- Interdepartmental Recovery Fund

Environment Canada

Ecological Gifts Program

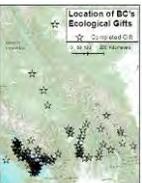
Federal tax incentive program that offers income tax benefits to private and corporate landowners who donate ecologically sensitive lands and partial interests in lands to qualified recipients




Environment Canada

Results to Date in BC

- 156 gifts complete
- >66,000 hectares conserved
- >\$246 million in value




Environment Canada

Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP)

HSP Funding in BC (in millions \$)



Priority Areas in BC



Environment Canada

HSP & Ecological Goods and Services

- HSP prioritizes multi-year and multi-partner funding
- Room for innovation!
- E.g., pilot providing agricultural producers with financial incentives to conserve species at risk and their habitat



Environment Canada

NAWMP & Habitat Joint Ventures

- Continental approach to habitat conservation for waterfowl
 - Tied to the Migratory Birds Convention Act
 - Brings US Wetland Conservation Act \$\$ to Canada
- Joint Ventures - partnerships of governments, NGO's and industry focused on bird habitat conservation
- Stewardship agreements with farmers and securement to conserve waterfowl habitats
- Provides the basis for CWS support of DUC, DFWT and other partners
- Producer groups participate at the board level

Environment Canada

Stewardship Agreements

(SARA section 11)

Agreement between landowners and EC for conserving habitat

- Aim is to meet both landowner and species needs
- Flexible approach – incentives can be negotiated
- Currently working with a rancher to develop the first agreement of its kind in BC



Canada

Questions?

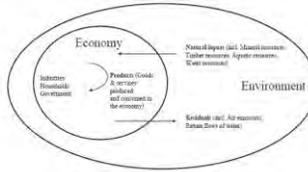


Canada

Incentives to Protect Species and Ecosystems at Risk

Nancy Olewiler
School of Public Policy, SFU
Species and Ecosystems at Risk
Local Government Working Group Symposium
7 October 2013

The Economy is a Subset of the Environment



The Goals

- To protect public lands and species at risk
- To create incentives for private landowners to participate in conservation efforts that protect ecosystems & biodiversity and prevent lands from being lost to development
- To find mechanisms to fund these incentives at the local/regional level in a policy/cash constrained environment

Overarching Objectives

- Integration of programs & policies to protect or restore a suite of services produced from well-functioning ecosystems – a roadmap for success
- Multiple policies – regulated & voluntary for landowners
- A landscape scale where ecological, economic, and political values are incorporated
- Cost effective policies that minimize transactions costs

The Needs

- Human resources – the people to do the analysis, implementation, and administration of policies and programs
 - \$\$ -- multiple sources of revenue for incentives & programs
 - An integrative accounting system (metrics, and protocols)
- Role of activities such as SEAR vital to make the links and provide support

State of Knowledge

- Are examples of what can work, but still more coordination, information, and framework needed
- Will see cases in today's presentations & discussion
- Terri Blackburn's paper provides an overview
- SEAR initiative is a key part of moving forward
- Other initiatives:
 - Canada - Federal – Value of Nature to Canadians Study and associated work
 - US – federal = EPA, state & local
 - Other countries: Australia, Vietnam, Costa Rica, EU

Focus Today

- Motivation for the use of incentive-based policies
- The role different forms of incentive-based policies can play in achieving the goals
- What we know and don't know – experience through some examples
- Assessment criteria
- Thoughts on the way forward

Why Use Incentives to Help Protect SEAR

Provide revenue streams to land owners to support conservation & protect natural areas

- Examples: Florida pays farmers to maintain wetlands on their private lands to store water

Incentives can help in the valuation of ecosystem services & improve the effectiveness of environmental protection policies

Why Use Incentives to Help Protect SEAR: Additional Dividends

Cost effective community services & regulatory compliance

- Seattle reduced storm water runoff at 25% lower cost with natural landscapes compared to engineering approaches
- Water managers in Oregon paid \$6m to farmers to plant trees along streams instead of spending \$60m on to cool the water from wastewater & storm water systems

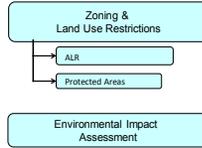
Sustaining ecosystems can reduce economic & community losses due to natural disasters

- Example: Flood plains and coastal sea marshes reduce damages from extreme weather events

Potential Policies

- Regulations
- Zoning
- Market-based payments for ecosystem services
- Tax credits
- Purchase of development rights
- Conservation easements
- Incentive payments
- Public acquisition of lands for conservation and ecosystem protection

Regulatory Policies



Incentive-Based Policies



Examples of Purchased Rights

- **Conservation Easement** = \$ contract to protect ecosystems & species
 - Typically in perpetuity
 - Purchaser = govt or conservation organization
 - Establishes price per EGS, negotiated
- **Ecological Gifts Program** = donation of land fee simple or conservation easement to conservation org or govt in return as charitable donation; land @ market value

Purchased Rights

- **Property tax credits for EGS**
 - Similar to above, but 'take it or leave it' uniform price
 - Offered each year
 - Used in Canada as pilot programs that are often successful, but limited by funding
 - Examples: BC: NAPTEP – Islands Trust, ON, NS

Purchased Rights: Auctions

- Auctions are a mechanism to determine a price for ecosystem goods & services
- Interested parties bid for payment for protecting/enhancing EGS on their property
 - Traditional = buyer (govt) offers one price to sellers; take it or leave it
 - Reverse = govt asks sellers to bid for payment they'd accept
 - Reverse seen as superior method of valuation
- Increasing use in SEAR situations – examples below

Mandatory Programs

- **Tradable Development Rights (TDRs)**
 - Cap & trade system for ecosystem goods & services (EGS) on land
 - Jurisdiction sets target for total EGS or by region in zoning plan
 - Used in US, analogous to heritage rights
 - In perpetuity
 - Establishes price per unit EGS
 - Drawbacks:
 - Complex market, could high transaction costs
 - Cannot force owners to trade

Potential Mandatory Program

- **Development Impact Fees (DIFs)**
 - Upfront charges for new development to capture cost of EGS degradation and replacement
 - Already in place for public infrastructure (roads, schools)
 - Not yet tested for EGS
 - Raises revenue for municipality

What now exists in Canada

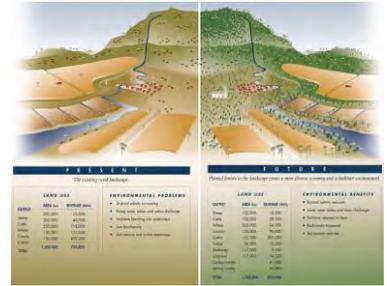
- Virtually all are voluntary
- Pilot studies with fixed price payments
 - ALUS
 - Property tax credits
- Eco-gift program
- Markets
 - Mostly voluntary; example = offset markets for GHG sequestration
- Cases for today

Examples of Policies in Other Countries

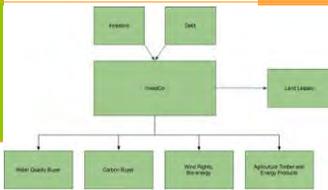
- Australia
 - Macquarie River: food & fibre
 - Payments with expected return over time
 - BushTender Program: reverse auction
- US
 - Wetlands Banking
 - Conservation Reserve Program
 - Direct subsidies

Macquarie River: Food and Fibre

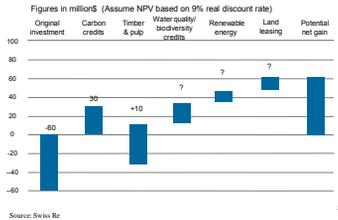
- Payment to upstream farmers to plant trees
 - NSW State Forests acts as broker
- Steady income stream in marginal tree cropping country
- Uncertainty over effectiveness/measurement
- Substantial subsidy, but expect large payout



Australian Investment Model



Capitalizing environmental externalities in land management

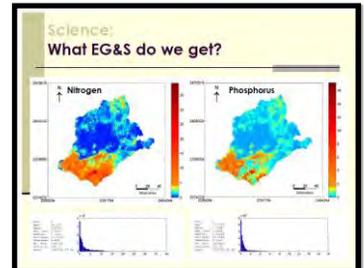
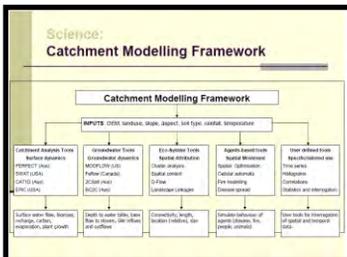


Example: New South Wales—Tarragower

- 8,500 hectare property, largely used for cattle grazing
- 50% of area will be reforested for native timber production, 50% for conservation of biodiversity
- \$9 million purchase price. Timber return about 4% real IRR, plus 3% real IRR for carbon sequestration credits, plus value of water rights, plus ridge top potential for wind farm
- Reforestation project was rated by local Catchment Management Authority to have high biodiversity benefits—led to \$1 million grant

At least half of the returns from this investment come from environmental revenue streams

BushTender Program in Australia



Electronic BushBroker

Smart markets: Vegetation offset market

Permit to clear native vegetation

Offset market
Electronic markets

Web-based Computers facilitate multi-lateral trades

Package problems
Lumpy assets
Thin markets
Complex trading rules

Contract to restore habitat destroyed

ISSUE: Should we pay more to Farmer A?

What EGS do we get
What does it cost?

or to Farmer B?

US: Wetlands Mitigation Banking "No Net Loss"

- Offsets required for dredging and filling wetlands
- Wetlands bank granted credits by Corps of Engineers
- Developer pays bank for credit
 - Gets permit to dredge and fill

Conservation Reserve Program: US

- Rental payments for conservation practices
 - Annual payments exceed US\$1.6 billion
- Competitive bid process (reverse auction) for land management for erosion control, water quality, wildlife habitat
- Concerns over collusion & quality of land in CRP

Subsidies

- Non-competitive payments
 - Cost-sharing for riparian buffers along Chesapeake Bay after *Pfisteria* fish kills
- No assurance of value for money
- ISSUE FOR ALL THESE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS = **FUNDING**

Integrated Policy: Incentive Program with Funding – Example: Alberta's Lac La Biche

- Red Deer Brook (RDB) wetland retains a significant amount of nutrient concentration from entering Lac La Biche – a major site for recreation and amenity for landowners
 - Red Deer Brook wetland area retains approximately 80% of nutrient concentration from entering Lac La Biche.
- Issue: protection of Red Deer Brook from development that will degrade/destroy its wetland services

Used Valuation Techniques to Determine Payment Potential

- Survey of local residents' willingness to pay to sustain RDB wetlands (CVM)
 - Hypothetical payment vehicle = increase in property taxes &/or camping fees
- Travel cost: non-residents' willingness to pay to visit LLB for recreational services
- The market value of private land in RDB
- The costs of replacing the goods & services provided by the wetlands (or mitigating damages from increased pollution flows)

Estimates of residents' willingness to pay (WTP) in additional property taxes to sustain RDB as wetland

	Low	Mean	High
WTP/Month	\$5.31	\$5.88	\$6.45
WTP/Annual	\$64	\$70	\$77
Aggregate (Household/Annual)	\$239,000	\$265,000	\$290,000
Present value if sustained indefinitely			
PV (Households)	\$4.8 million	\$5.3 million	\$5.8 million

Estimates of incremental camping fees residents would be willing to pay to sustain RDB

	Low	Mean	High
Camping Fees/per night	\$2.86	\$3.08	\$3.30
Aggregate - Lakeland County Sites	\$37,000	\$40,000	\$43,000
Aggregate - Provincial Sites	\$22,000	\$24,000	\$26,000
Total	\$59,000	\$64,000	\$69,000
Present value if sustained indefinitely:			
PV - Total	\$1.2 million	\$1.3 million	\$1.4 million

Translating these WTPs into the benefits of an acre of wetland

	Low	Mean	High
WTP - Taxes			
Benefits per acre	\$3,020	\$3,344	\$3,668
WTP - Rec Fees			
Benefits per acre	\$470	\$506	\$542
Total			
Benefits per acre	\$3,490	\$3,850	\$4,210

Compare Benefits to Costs of Land Acquisition

- Estimate of present value of benefits (\$/acre)
 - Low = \$2100
 - High = \$4500
- Estimate of present value of costs (\$/acre over time) = \$2150
- Net benefits (\$50) to \$2450/acre to purchase private lands and protect wetlands

How to Assess Programs: Criteria for Assessment

- Do they work! Protect/enhance SEAR
- Attractive to private landowners
- Build on established programs/partners
- Cost effective (revenue neutral?)
- Simple, administrative ease

Criteria Continued

- Scalable, pilots to broader application
- Leverage other programs (funding & synergy)
- Buy in from affected communities – bottom up support and initiatives
- Economic efficiency across projects
- Fairness
- Probability of persistence

Assessment of Policies Using Criteria

- Varies by location, type of SEAR situation
- May have to use triage approach – look at all criteria to screen incentives, then narrow to ones that have the highest likelihood of survival
- Weighting?
- Don't make it too complex

Celebrations & Challenges

- Many successful programs and pilot programs, but....
- Need consistent method for evaluating programs and using lessons learned to inform program development, program follow up
 - Measure total costs & benefits of programs
 - Measure EGS over time & role played in enhancing community, environment, economy

Challenges

- Uncoordinated (and multiple) programs – within/across provinces
- Beneficiaries may not be WTP
- Too many regulations, criteria, rules & not consistent across programs & regions
- No long-term support; unclear cost sharing
- More mandatory programs?

Moving Forward

- Bring together resources to build the tools (industry, government, NGOs) and form meaningful partnerships with govt leadership
- Develop processes within our institutions to enhance efficient pricing of EGS (e.g. guidance documents, reducing transaction costs)

Moving Forward

- More education to increase awareness of EGS and beneficial role of protecting SEAR
- Funding and people – significant and sustained until self sustaining (funded) programs established and functioning
- Political leadership

Policy Windows Opening

- Climate change & large role of EGS on agricultural and forest lands, urban areas
 - Carbon markets & sequestration – offsets and banking markets; adaptation to climate change: EGS fundamental; apply to ALR?
- Water pricing
- Food safety & security
- Health and sustainable lifestyles

EKCP East Kootenay Conservation Program
Learning. Restoring. Growing.

Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund

EKCP East Kootenay Conservation Program
Learning. Restoring. Growing.

Conservation Finance

- Regional and Municipal Funding Gap in British Columbia
- A Meeting in Montana
- The Theft of a Damn Good Idea
- The 3 Slides that Brought it Home!

EKCP East Kootenay Conservation Program
Learning. Restoring. Growing.

Background and Context

State and Local Conservation Funding 1986 - 2008

EKCP East Kootenay Conservation Program
Learning. Restoring. Growing.

The Opportunity

Year	Funding (Billions)
1988	1.5
1992	1.5
1996	1.5
2000	6.0
2004	5.5
2008	8.0

EKCP East Kootenay Conservation Program
Learning. Restoring. Growing.

The Process

Legislatively Approved Funding Process

```

    graph LR
      S1[Step 1: Feasibility Research] --> S2[Step 2: Public Opinion Polling]
      S2 --> S3[Step 3: Coalition Building]
      S3 --> S4[Step 4: Lobby Legislature]
  
```

Ballot Measure Process

```

    graph LR
      S1[Step 1: Feasibility Research] --> S2[Step 2: Public Opinion Polling]
      S2 --> S3[Step 3: Coalition Building]
      S3 --> S4[Step 4: Getting On the Ballot]
      S4 --> S5[Step 5: Campaign]
  
```

EKCP East Kootenay Conservation Program
Learning. Restoring. Growing.

Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund

Established - Nov 15, 2008 – 54% approval

Conservation – A service delivered by the RDEK

Up to \$230,000 raised per year by parcel tax

EKCP Roll in Administering CVLCF

EKCP East Kootenay Conservation Program
Learning. Restoring. Growing.

Local Conservation Fund Themes

- Protection of our quality of life
- Conservation & restoration of fish and wildlife habitat
- Conservation of watersheds
- Conservation of open space & farm land

EKCP East Kootenay Conservation Program
Learning. Restoring. Growing.

History of Grant Making

- 4-year Granting History
- 34 Projects Supported between 2010-2013
- Over \$1,100,000 in grants. \$5,000,000 in additional funding leveraged.
- Wide Diversity of Projects and Initiatives Supported

EKCP East Kootenay Conservation Program
Learning. Restoring. Growing.

Project Sampler



East Kootenay Conservation Program

\$20,000
Windermere and District Farmers Institute
Pilot Project – Provincial Expansion
Change in Management Practices
Payment For Services



East Kootenay Conservation Program

\$700,000
Nature Conservancy Canada
315 hectares – Columbia Lake
Conservation Mosaic
Grasslands Open Forest



East Kootenay Conservation Program

\$90,000
Toby Benches Society
Rod and Gun Club
Ministry of Environment
Water Quality and Quantity
Repairing past wrongs
Partnerships/Leverage



East Kootenay Conservation Program

\$17,700
Windermere and District Farmers Institute
IUCN Threat-based projects
Financial Incentives
Landowner Education and Engagement



East Kootenay Conservation Program

\$20,000
Nature Conservancy Canada
The Four Amigos
Grassland/Open Forest Restoration
Urban/Wildland Interface Protection



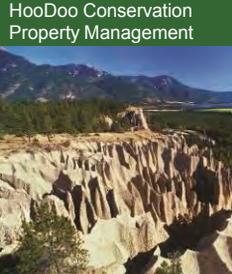
East Kootenay Conservation Program

\$30,000
Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners
Columbia Marshes
Species at Risk focus
Two-year Grant.
Research leading to Action



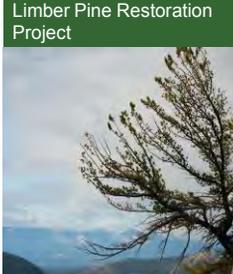
East Kootenay Conservation Program

\$17,500
Nature Trust of British Columbia
Fencing, Signage, Access Management, Gates
Community Access
Coordination amongst landowners



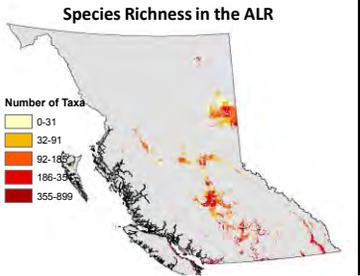
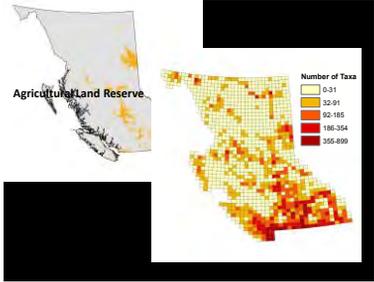
East Kootenay Conservation Program

\$20,000
Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation
Species at Risk focus
Research, seed collection and propagation leading to recovery strategies



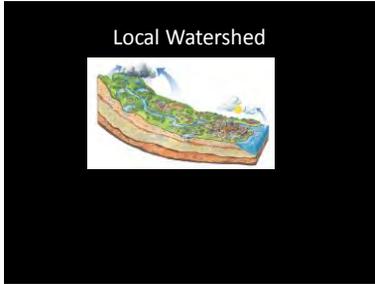
East Kootenay Conservation Program





Vision

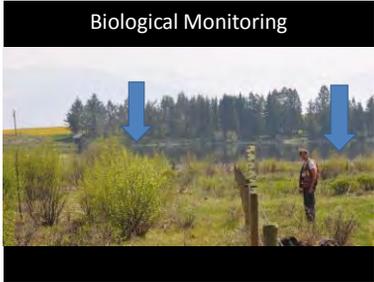
Farmer
progra
Regional
Ecological integrity and food
security.

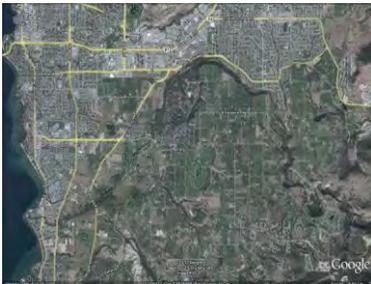
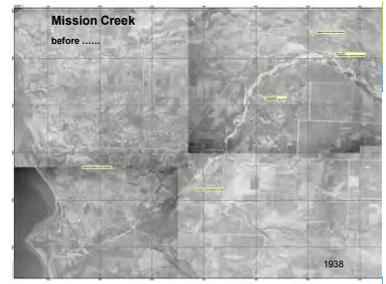


Phase 1

- Test a model
- Establish first demo site









Sustaining Biodiversity within Agricultural Landscapes - INCENTIVES

Is there biodiversity behind your fence post?

Geoff Hughes-Games, PAg & Donald Trotter, PAg, RPBio
BC Ministry of Agriculture

Incentive:

- cost share of selected practices

Goal:

- to address on-farm agri-environmental risks

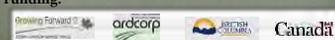
Target stakeholders:

- farm and ranch operations across BC

Program:

- British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) & Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) Programs

Funding:



EFP - path ---->

- an on-farm risk assessment
- leads to a plan of action



- voluntary
- confidential
- producer driven
- standard set of tools
- access criteria

BMP Incentive Program - practices list (partial)

BMP Category Number	Cap \$K	Cost Share %	Eligible BMP Category Name
01	4.50	50	Improved manure storage & handling
02	1.50	50	Manure treatment and manure land application
05	4.00	50	Farmstead covered
06	4.50	50	Reduction of livestock confinement & hazing
07	4.50	50	Minimizing soil management
08	1.00	50	Produce & manure management
09	4.5	50	Water well management
11	4.70	60	Riparian area management
12	1.50	60	Native fish habitat creation
16	4.5	50	Improved pest management
17	4.00	50	Nutrient recovery from waste water
18a	4.5	60	Irrigation management
19	600 K	60 %	Bullfinch & Olive-backed Thrush establishment
21	1.1	100	Nateland Management
25 - 30	0.4 K	100 %	Various livestock management (plans?) (i.e., Madrensky and Riparian)
31 - 33	varies	50	Climate change gas mitigation

BMP chosen based on results of EFP Application to ARDCorp - caps, cost shares and specific eligible practices - access criteria

Current EFP and BMP Programs

Challenges

- Individual EFP
- Voluntary access
- Limited program funding
- Scattered across landscape
- Limited BMP list

Proposed new direction

- More group based EFP
- Stronger focus on measurable outcomes
- Considering approaches from other jurisdictions

For more information about:

Environmental Farm Plan Program, Beneficial Management Practices Program, or Biodiversity Farm Plans

Contact:

Agricultural Research & Development Corporation at:
 Toll free: 1-866-522-3447
<http://www.becfp.ca/>

BC Ministry of Agriculture
 Geoff Hughes-Games, PAg, 604-556-3102
geoff.hughesgames@gov.bc.ca



Whatcom County Drainage District Re-vegetation Program

- Hedgerow buffers along fish bearing agricultural streams
- 54 miles of stream planted
- 276,00 native trees and shrubs
- Mechanism to mitigate for drainage maintenance (dredging)



Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP)



Jennifer Eliason, Manager, Islands Trust Fund

What is NAPTEP?



- NAPTEP is a conservation incentive program that offers landowners who covenant their property a reduction in property taxes
- NAPTEP is a program of the Islands Trust and Islands Trust Fund that is only available to trust area landowners (except Bowen Island)

Why NAPTEP?



- Tool for conservation
 - Gulf Islands have high conservation values, numerous species and ecosystems at risk
 - Over 65% of land in Gulf Islands is private
- Property tax incentive
 - 65% property tax exemption on covenanted land
 - Legislated through *Islands Trust Act*
 - 22 covenants protecting 75 hectares now registered

Covenant Restrictions

Land is protected by restricting:

- Removal of native plants
- Use of herbicides and pesticides
- Grazing of domestic animals
- Alteration of watercourses/waterbodies
- Modification of soil & geological features



NAPTEP is intended to be forever...

...there are penalties for violating the covenant

Other tax incentive programs

■ Nova Scotia

- Property taxes eliminated for eligible conservation properties, including private land covenants
- Province established a \$23 million trust fund to provide funds for private land conservation
- The province also provides an annual grant to municipalities to compensate for loss of tax revenue

■ Province of Ontario

- 100% tax exemption for eligible portion of property, as identified by province
- Does not require a covenant
- Annual exemption, must apply every year

Species and Ecosystems at Risk Local Government Working Group annual symposium 7-8 October 2013 Okanagan Region

Discussion Paper recommendations & working together with regional partners

- ▶ Increase Local Government Awareness of Species at Risk
- ▶ Facilitate Use of Effective Tools and Techniques
- ▶ Conduct Ecosystem Mapping and Encourage Data Sharing
- ▶ Engage Landowners in Species at Risk Habitat Protection
- ▶ Identify and Collaborate on Shared Responsibilities

Increase Local Government Awareness of Species at Risk

"RDCO Parks Services: Through our department and visitor services staff at the Environmental Education of the Central Okanagan (EECO) we work with many local NGO groups, provide educational information & interpretive hikes to school kids & the public and have 3 major exhibits in our EECO on birds of prey, kokanee salmon, etc."

Environmental Planning - What We Do... Species of Concern in the Central Okanagan Environmentally Sensitive Areas...



Facilitate Use of Effective Tools and Techniques

Identify important habitats in regional growth strategies, official community plans and development permit areas.

"RDNO - ongoing, currently looking at incorporating existing inventories & mapping into the Electoral Areas B & C Official Community Plan as well as the potential for a Development Permit Area Regional Growth Strategy. Policies support the development of inventories of environmentally sensitive lands."



Conduct Ecosystem Mapping and Encourage Data Sharing

Plan for development by knowing first what to protect

Land Habitat: Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory
A geographical inventory of sensitive ecosystems that are relatively unmodified, and are ecologically fragile or are recognized as being rare in the provincial landscape.



Engage Landowners in Species at Risk Habitat Protection

Provide property tax reductions to landowners who protect species at risk habitats through conservation covenants on their land.

RDCC Planning Services: Have done a couple of conservation covenants - had some good implications to the owner to follow on on.
Fraserford: Not discussed
RDCC: Does not do this
RDCC: Mapping to be done, currently not a common practice
City of Vernon: Not done and willing to be supported as long as necessary for operation of all City services.

Identify and Collaborate on Shared Responsibilities

"The South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program and its local government partners continues to be excited by the results from a project that has created a Shared Environmental Planner approach to providing support to local governments on environmental issues. Working particularly with Summerland and the Okanagan Similkameen Regional District (RDOS), this program is helping to provide coordinated support for implementing measures to address critical habitat concerns in our area."





A BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FOR THE OKANAGAN REGION

The OCCP and the SOSCP Working Together with Partners

SEAR LGWG Richmond October 8th 2013



Okanagan Basin Conservation Programs (SOSCP & OCCP)



Goals:

- maintain biodiversity,
- ecological connectivity,
- engage community in sustainability
- balance community needs with conservation

- 80+ organizations with shared conservation goals
- Focus on initiatives not regulation
- Purpose to share info, fill research gaps, set priorities

Strategy initiated by South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) in partnership with RDOS in 2009



Strategy initiated by Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP) in 2011





An Important Regional & Cross Boundary Corridor

Okanagan Valley is a key north-south corridor for wildlife movement between the US Columbia Basin and BC Central Interior grasslands

- Human settlements and the transportation networks are barriers to wildlife movement.
- Major highways impact north-south movement while large lakes, highways and isolated areas of steep terrain impact east-west movement.




The Biodiversity Strategies in the Region are supported by goals and policies all 3 Regional Growth Strategies:

"Ensuring the health of ecosystems to provide water, land, air and biodiversity".




Here's what is included in the strategy:

- Maps with priority areas for biodiversity conservation
- Key findings on the region's biodiversity status
- Recommended strategic directions to help governments strengthen biodiversity conservation
- Guidance Document for Managing Connectivity and Regional Case Studies




Science analysis provided regional maps as "decision support tools" to help ensure environmentally sound planning and development

Type of Map		What it Tells Us
1. Conservation Rankings	➔	Which ecosystems are most important for conservation?
2. Relative Biodiversity	➔	Where are the "hotspots" for biodiversity?
3. Wildlife Connectivity	➔	Where are the best opportunities to maintain/facilitate movement?
4. Land Management Classes	➔	What's land is managed to protect biodiversity now and where are the gaps and opportunities?



What we found about *Important* Ecosystems

- 60 % of the Okanagan Region consists of ecosystems that are high priority for conservation (i.e. **sensitive, rare or at risk**)
- Valuable Valley Bottoms (almost half Very High and High value habitats; 3 of the 7 rarest BEC Zones; human settlement;)
- Very high ranking habitats are concentrated in the South Okanagan(almost 77% in the RDOS).
- Ecosystem Connectivity is at risk



Designing & Implementing Ecosystem Connectivity

- Explaining the concept of ecosystem connectivity and why it requires planning and land use regulation.
- Describing the components of connectivity and a systematic approach for constructing connectivity plans, including key factors and management considerations
- Describing planning and regulatory tools available to local governments to implement connectivity plans.
- Providing appendices, references and additional detail in support of all these topics.



Regional Strategy completion date is April of 2014

Looking for Input & Review of the Connectivity Guidance Document.
Contact : Susan Latimer OCCP Project Manager
sdl.environmental@gmail.com or 250-547-9207

Questions?

The South Coast Conservation Program




"The SCCP: A multi partner conservation program helping facilitate projects and activities to restore and protect species and ecological communities at risk on the South Coast of B.C."

Outline

- About the SCCP
- South Coast SEAR and Local Governments Project
- Coastal Sand Ecosystems Stewardship Program
- Landholder Contact Program
- Questions

SCCP history and objectives



- Established in 2005
- Multi-partner or "joint venture" approach (senior agencies, stewardship groups, industry, academia, First Nations)
- Facilitates implementation of sound conservation and management tools for species and ecosystems at risk.
- Works at a landscape ('eco-regional') level across the South Coast of British Columbia.

The region's at risk statistics




14% of regional land is considered high and priority class 2013. 6% of regional land is in a high priority class 2013.

Competition for space is tight!




The South Coast – nearly 2 million people and rising

South Coast SEAR and Local Governments Project

- Provide platform for LG staff and officials to discuss the challenges, opportunities and solutions for integrating SEAR into land use decisions
- Dialogue sessions in the four sub regions of the South Coast
- Guidance Document




South Coast SEAR and Local Governments Project - Regional Dialogue Sessions

- Fraser Valley: October 31 in Abbotsford
- Metro Vancouver: November 7 in Vancouver
- Squamish Lillooet: November 12 at Whistler Library
- Sunshine Coast and Powell River: November 13 in Sechelt




Sand Ecosystems of the South Coast Stewardship

2012-13





Northern wormwood - Red fescue / Grey rock-moss Sparse Vegetation

Large-headed sedge Herbaceous Vegetation

Dune wildrye - Beach pea Herbaceous Vegetation



General CSE education

- Brochure / general field guide
 - Produced with feedback from Metro Vancouver
- Also on-line at SCCP.ca along with other info

Savary Island Powell River Regional District

- Site-appropriate signage
- Scotch broom removal management
- Fencing
- Community outreach (landowner contact, articles and community events)

North and South Thormanby Islands: Sunshine Coast Regional District

Buccaneer Bay Provincial Park

- 100 m of rope fencing with signage
- Coastal Sand Summer Celebration!
 - 2 days of activities: Family Festival and Scotch broom removal event

Buccaneer Bay Provincial Park

- Interpretive sign

Vaucroft Community (North Thormanby Island)

- Partnership established with Improvement District and Sunshine Coast Regional District
- Scotch broom removal

Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area

- Signs created for each entrance point

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Iona Beach and Boundary Bay

- Joint outreach activities, including creation of CSE brochure to be placed in their kiosks



Thank you to the Funders!

- Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program and BC Parks



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :

Landholder Contact Program 2012-13



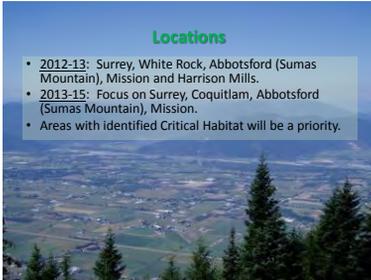
Species at Risk Program Focus

- 2012-13:** Pacific Water Shrew
- 2013-15:** Pacific Water Shrew, Coastal Giant Salamander, Phantom Orchid, Oregon Spotted Frog, Oregon Forestsnail, Western Painted Turtle, Northern Red-legged Frog, Western Screech Owl
- Private landowners
- Land managers

Goal: To encourage and support landowners to maintain and improve wildlife habitat on their land.

Locations

- 2012-13:** Surrey, White Rock, Abbotsford (Sumas Mountain), Mission and Harrison Mills.
- 2013-15:** Focus on Surrey, Coquitlam, Abbotsford (Sumas Mountain), Mission.
- Areas with identified Critical Habitat will be a priority.



Highlights (2012-13)

- 165 property parcels were considered
- 13 properties were visited
- 2 verbal and 3 written stewardship agreements secured
- 6 management plan/recommendation reports were shared
- 2 properties had restoration work (native vegetation planting)



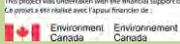
Highlights

- City of Abbotsford property visits yielded confirmed sighting of Northern red-legged frog and Pacific water leaf.



Partnerships

- Funding: Habitat Stewardship Program, Science Horizons
- Partners: Fraser Valley Conservancy, Canadian Wildlife Service, MFLNRO, Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition, City of Abbotsford and A Rocha



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :

Questions?



Learn More at:
www.sccp.ca
Like us on Facebook!
Contact Jenna at conservationplanner@sccp.ca

**Species at Risk Primer:
an On-Line Tool**

Funding provided by:

Stewardship Centre for BC

Mission: to strengthen ecological stewardship in BC by providing technical, educational and capacity resources and fostering partnerships among organizations, groups, governments and the private sector.

www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca

SCBC Resources & Outreach

- Stewardship Series of Publications
- Technical Tools for Stewardship Practitioners
 - Species @ Risk Primer www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca
 - Green Shores (TM) Coastal Development Rating System
 - Green Shores for Homes (rating + cross border pilots)
- Organizational Development
 - Stewardship Works
 - Benchmarking – Organizational Performance

The screenshot shows the main interface of the Species at Risk Primer website, including a search bar, navigation tabs, and introductory text about the tool's purpose.

Species at Risk Primer

- Search for species at risk likely to occur in particular Municipality, Regional District and Forest Districts
- Refined searches for specific habitat types, conservation status, species groups
- Linked to the BC Conservation Data Centre
- Easy-to-use with summaries on species, locations, and management practices

www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca

Search Species... by municipality

The screenshot displays the 'Advanced Search' section of the website, showing a grid of checkboxes for selecting various municipalities and regions across British Columbia.

Advanced search... Langley..amphibians

The screenshot shows the search results for 'amphibians' in the 'Langley' region, listing various species with their status and distribution details.

Learn...

The screenshot shows the 'Learn...' section, which includes educational content and links to resources. It features a small image of a bird.

Stewardship Practices

- Development of at least five Stewardship Practices (SPs) affecting multiple species at risk are addressable by private landowners, local governments, and/or the agricultural sector
- Complete outreach/education/training activities for the SAR Primer www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca
- Consultation and collabor...

How will we add this information?



Learn Sidebar

- [Management Strategies](#)
- [Local Government](#)
- [Species At Risk Act](#)
- [Stewardship Practices](#)

Stewardship Practices

Cat Predation



Road Kill



Stewardship Practices

Drainage Management in Agricultural



Caving and Climbing



Riparian Areas in Settled Landscapes



Stewardship Practices

- **Protect Existing Riparian Areas**
- **Establish New or Restore Degraded Riparian Buffers**



Some of the species...



Green Heron (left) nests and forages in riparian areas of south-western British Columbia.

© Len Blumin



Many amphibians, including the Red Legged Frog (left) and the Spadefoot Toad use riparian areas as their primary habitat.

Left: © Steve Clegg

Plant Native Vegetation



Control Invasive Species



Protect Plantings from Wildlife and Livestock



Well secured fencing encircling trees is an effective way of preventing beaver damage.

Install Large Woody Debris



Augment Riparian Areas with Agroforestry or Leave Strips



Agroforestry crops, like these hardwoods planted in Agassiz to produce veneer logs can augment the benefits of native riparian areas while providing income to landowners.

Create Riparian Wetlands



This small wetland was built in a low corner of a pasture within the riparian area of a creek in Langley.

Finding the Money

- The Environmental Farm Plan Program
- Partner with local stewardship groups
- Environment Canada – HSP
- Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust
- Conservation Funds



Working Together..



- Collaboration through an Advisory Process
- Timeline:
 - Research (Jan/Mar)
 - Development of solutions-based Stewardship Practices (Mar/Apr)
 - Consultation with Advisors (Feb/Nov)
 - Finalization of SPs & posting to SAR Primer(Nov/Dec)
 - Workshops (Oct/Nov)



Contact Us...



DG Blair, Executive Director
Stewardship Centre for B

- Tel. 1.866.456.7222
- mobile 604.230.9734
- dg@stewardshipcentrebc.ca
- www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca

Thank You!



Managing for Connectivity in the Okanagan Landscape

A key component of the OCCP Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Okanagan Region



- to support strategic design and implementation of a connectivity plan.
- to provide guidance on how to build a network of connections, address barriers and missing linkages
- to ensure the resulting ecosystem network will provide areas of sufficient size and proximity to sustain long term connectivity, support ecosystem processes, and provide animal movement



- explains the fundamentals of connectivity design
- Identifies tools available to local governments and information about how these may be applied to create a connectivity strategy



- Can be used at regional, sub-regional and local scales
- Can be formally recognized in RGS, OCPs, area plans, parks and recreational planning, water management planning, transportation and utility planning
- Can inform agricultural development, forestry planning, crown land management as well as land acquisition, management or restoration plans by conservancies, land trusts, and other nongovernmental organizations.



Section 1

- introduces the concept of ecosystem connectivity and
- explains why it requires consideration for planning and regulation.



Section 1 (cont.)

- supports delivery of ecosystem services & provides vital benefits particularly related to water.
- moderates impacts of climate change on temperature, CO₂ levels and overall biodiversity.
- supports a cost effective way to protect species at risk, reduce wildlife conflicts and address challenges created by man-made barriers.
- combines benefits for ecosystems and species with benefits for people



Section 2:

- explains connectivity components and how to select between options (patches and corridors)
- describes the steps in constructing connectivity plans
- concludes with a discussion of management considerations to support connectivity in the future.



Section 2 (cont.)

- Talks about ecosystem patches and explains fragmentation
- Looks at factors influencing the value of ecosystem patches and outlines the criteria for picking the best patches



Section 2 (cont.)

- types
- qualities
- limitations



Provides criteria for selecting connective elements and a summary of key criteria for connectivity planning



Section 3:

- provides a summary of planning and regulatory tools available to implement connectivity plans
- recommendations for successful implementation of corridors and patches through bylaws and other regulation



Section 3 (cont.)

- Further details in appendix support section 3
- Modeled after green bylaws tool kit, this content shows how tools like Regional Conservation Strategies, Regional Growth Strategies, OCPs, Community Plans, zoning, DPAs, subdivisions, Development Cost Charges, and Conservation Covenants can be used to implement connectivity plans



Section 4:

- lists references used to support development of this guide.
- appendices provide additional detail in support of all these topics



- We are in the process of collecting information on examples of where connectivity planning has been used at different scales (e.g. single development to broad landscape)
- We already have connectivity opportunity maps as a product of the almost completed biodiversity strategy for the Okanagan Basin



- The work of Dr. Lael Parrot, Maryssa Soroke (student) and Charles Bouchard are helping define how OK connectivity mapping and circuitscape can be used to define corridor opportunities.
- Working with science experts helps us define desired candidate corridors



If you would be interested in providing input on the version before the final draft please contact
Susan Latimer
OCCP Project Manager
Biodiversity Conservation Strategy at
sdl.environmental@gmail.com

APPENDIX C: SUMMARIES OF INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

SEAR

Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) in partnership with the Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP)

Background

On November 15, 2008, electors from the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) Electoral Areas F and G, the District of Invermere, the Village of Radium Hot Springs and the Village of Canal Flats (collectively referred to as “the participating areas”) voted to establish the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund (CVLCF). The Service Establishment Bylaw was subsequently adopted by the RDEK Board of Directors. Under this bylaw, from 2009 to 2018, property owners in the participating areas will pay a parcel tax of about \$20 per parcel towards a dedicated fund for conservation projects in the service area.

Fund Purpose

Natural lands in both rural and urban areas filter our water, supply open spaces for wildlife and people, and provide quality of life to communities. Unfortunately, these systems are under stress. The current generation must take action now to ensure a healthy physical environment for future generations.

The purpose of the Fund is to provide local financial support for important projects that will contribute to the conservation of our valuable natural areas; one step towards restoring and preserving a healthy environment. The intent is to provide funding for conservation projects that are not the existing responsibility of the federal, provincial or local governments.

Fund Administration

The RDEK is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the fund and retains the responsibility for final approval of all matters related thereto. The RDEK will be responsible for final approval of all projects, grant payments, and financial audits of the fund.

The Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) is a partnership of 70 conservation, industry, and governmental organizations dedicated to conserving natural areas for Kootenay communities. Under a formal, written, agreement, KCP will be responsible for all aspects of fund management, other than the direct financial administration. This will include drafting and revising the fund design documents, advertising calls for proposals, project evaluation, and overall program evaluation.

Fund Delivery

Since its inception the CVLCF has invested in 34 conservation projects resulting in direct financial contributions of over \$1,000,000 which has helped leverage over \$5,000,000 in additional investments toward these projects. The fund has supported a wide diversity of projects and proponents focused on both securement and stewardship of private lands.

A representative sampling of supported projects and organizations include:

1. Northern Leopard Frog Reintroduction - Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners;
2. Lake Windermere Water Quality and Shoreline Restoration Project - Lake Windermere Ambassadors' Society;
3. Columbia Valley Invasive Plants Neighbourhood Program - Windermere District Farmers' Institute;
4. Limber Pine Restoration Project - Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation;
5. Ecological Goods & Services Project - Windermere District Farmers' Institute;
6. Marion Creek Benchlands Purchase - Nature Conservancy of Canada;
7. Thunder Hill Ranch Ecosystem Restoration - Nature Conservancy of Canada;
8. Hoodoo Conservation Property Access Management - The Nature Trust of British Columbia;
9. Sinclair Creek Native Plant Restoration - Wildsight;
10. Boulder Creek Diversion Project - Lake Windermere Rod and Gun Club;
11. Strategic Invasive Plant Control of Leafy Spurge - East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council;
12. Dutch-Findley Private Conservation Land Open Forest Restoration Project - Nature Conservancy of Canada; and
13. Columbia Lake - Lot 48 Purchase - Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Bulletin 13

September 2013

Regional Parks **Land Acquisition**

Summary of 2012 Acquisitions

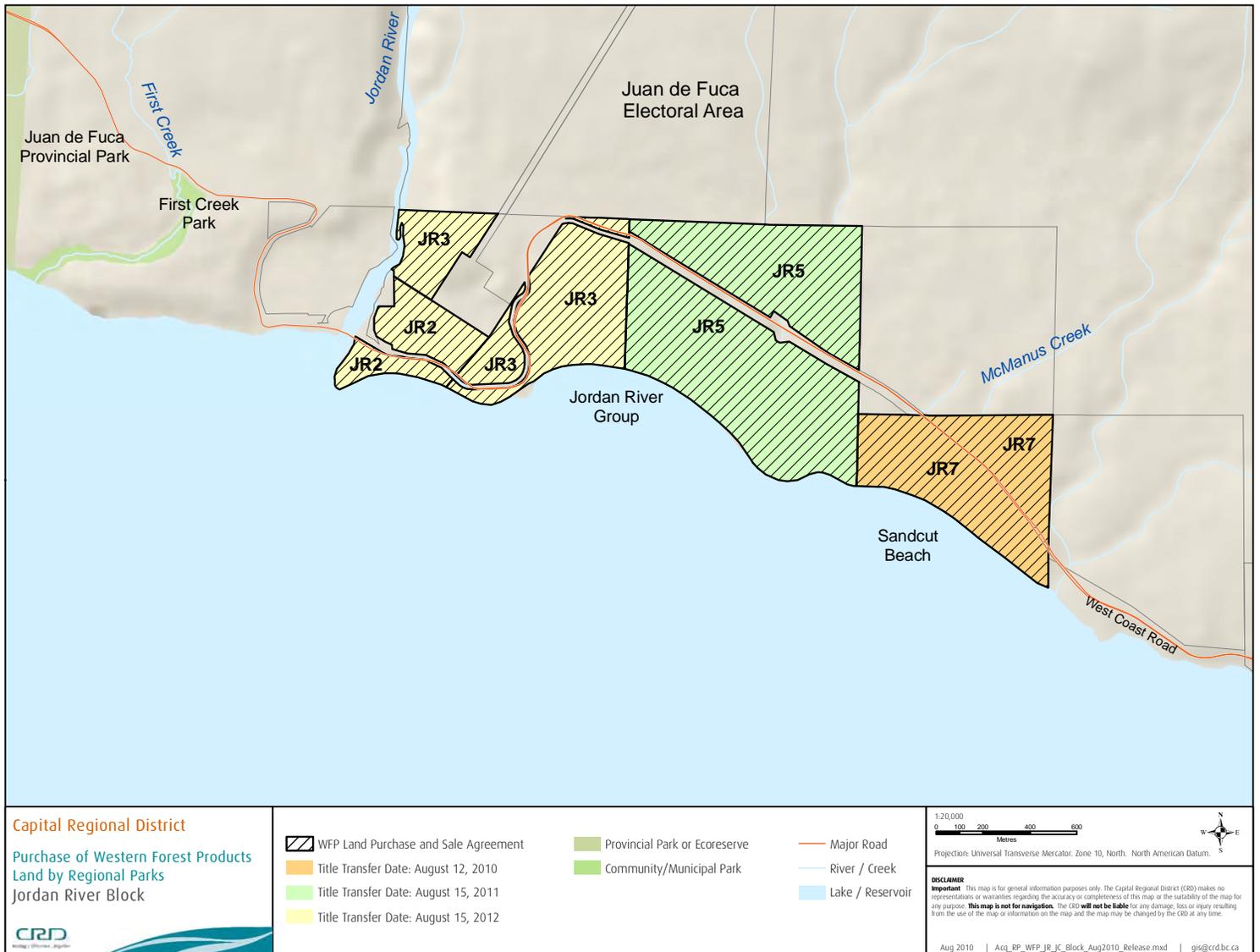


Jordan River Regional Park Reserve



Regional Parks
490 Atkins Avenue
Victoria, BC, Canada V9B 2Z8

250.478.3344
www.crd.bc.ca/parks
crdparks@crd.bc.ca



Jordan River Land Transfer Complete

In 2012, 57 hectares were transferred to CRD Regional Parks from Western Forest Products. The Jordan River Regional Park Reserve was established in 2010 when the CRD acquired 187 hectares of land at Jordan River from Western Forest Products for \$9,945,000. The land is being purchased through the CRD's Land Acquisition Fund, with assistance from The Land Conservancy of BC, Province of British Columbia, and individual donors. 50 hectares were transferred in 2010 and 96 hectares in 2011. The final two parcels transferred in 2012 completes the agreement. The land is being paid in installments over these three years.

It was recognized at the time of purchase that some of the land acquired did not have regional park value; however, the CRD was required to purchase the land as defined by legal parcels. In early 2012 Regional Parks undertook a public consultation process to help determine which land should be retained and what land might be declared as surplus. The CRD Board announced in December 2012 that lands north of Highway 14/ West Coast Road were deemed surplus to regional park needs. These lands have been offered for sale to the Pacheedaht and T'Sou-ke First Nations. Parcels JR5 and JR7 north of the highway are still under consideration by the CRD Board and a decision is expected in 2013.

Land Acquisition Fund

The lands acquired for regional parks and trails through the Land Acquisition Fund continue to contribute significantly to the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the region. The fund was established in 2000 for a ten year period at a rate of \$10 per average residential household assessment. In 2010, the fund was extended for another ten years at a rate of \$12 per average residential household assessment, increasing by \$2 per year to a maximum of \$20 in 2014, and then remaining at this rate until 2019.

Land Acquisitions 2000 to 2012

Since the establishment of the Land Acquisition Fund in 2000, Regional Parks, with its partners, has purchased 4,485 hectares of land totalling \$48,018,264. Of that total, Regional Parks has contributed \$34,887,559 (73%) and partners have contributed \$13,130,705 (27%). With the acquisition of land adjacent to Island View Beach Regional Park in 2009 and at Jordan River and Brooks Point in 2010-12, Regional Parks has short-term debt commitments until 2015, which will use all land acquisition funds requisitioned in those years. As such, Regional Parks will next have any significant funds to acquire land in 2016.

Our Partnerships

These parklands help the CRD create a more sustainable region for the long term benefit of all residents. The fund is made possible by the generous donations of our many partners: The Land Conservancy of BC, Nature Conservancy of Canada, governments of Canada and BC, Salt Spring Island Conservancy, land owners, individuals and business donors.

Table 1. 2012 Land Acquisition Revenue and Expenditures

2012 Revenue	
Prior Year Carryover	\$288,324
Annual Requisition	\$2,841,170
Short Term Loan for Western Forest Products Land	\$4,500,000
Operating Funds	\$27,907
Donations to Land Acquisition Fund	\$1,774
Total 2012 Revenue	\$7,659,175
2012 Expenditures	
Land Purchases (Western Forest Products)	\$5,958,208
Short Term Debt	\$1,623,004
Total 2012 Expenditures	\$7,581,212
Balance of 2012 CRD Land Acquisition Fund (carry forward to 2013)	\$77,963

* This includes costs for land value appraisals, legal services, property taxes, surveying, acquisition negotiations, land title fees and development costs.

Capital Regional District

Regional Parks Land Acquisitions 2000 - 2012



Acquisitions

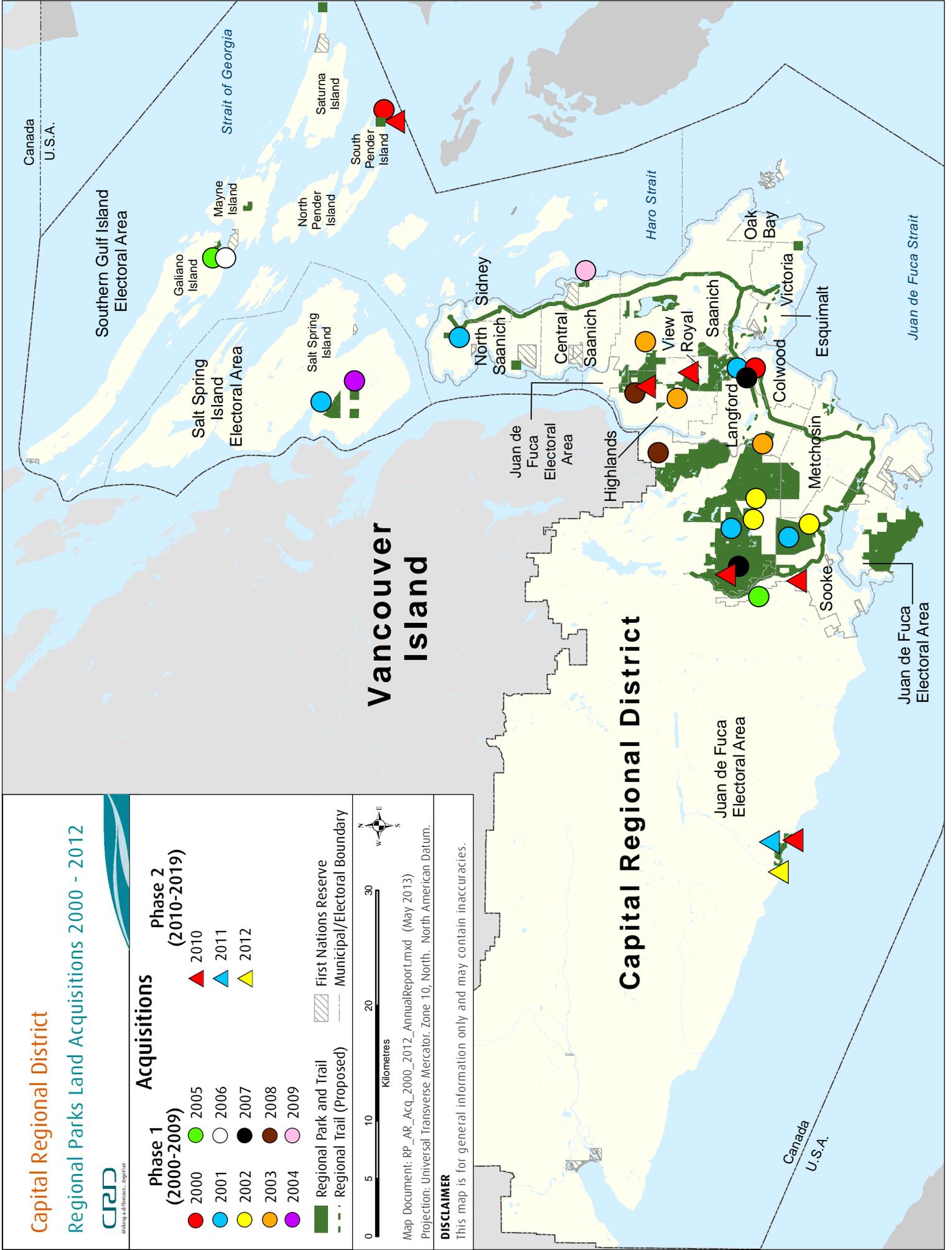
Phase 1 (2000-2009)		Phase 2 (2010-2019)	
● 2000	● 2005	▲ 2010	
● 2001	○ 2006	▲ 2011	
● 2002	● 2007	▲ 2012	
● 2003	● 2008		
● 2004	● 2009		

Regional Park and Trail
 Regional Trail (Proposed)
 First Nations Reserve
 Municipal/Electoral Boundary



Map Document: RP_AR_Acq_2000_2012_AnnualReport.mxd (May 2013)
 Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 10, North, North American Datum.

DISCLAIMER
 This map is for general information only and may contain inaccuracies.





What is the Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust?

The Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust (hereinafter DF&WT or the Trust) is a non-profit organization that is committed to developing and financing innovative and cooperative solutions to farmland and wildlife management issues on the Fraser River delta. Guided by a voluntary Board of farmers and conservationists, it has developed into a model for farmland and wildlife habitat conservation. The Trust values the farm as a basic unit of conservation and works with farmers to maximize yield potential and enhance wildlife habitat on local farms.

OUR VISION

A vibrant and extensive agricultural area where farm stewardship contributes to soil conservation and the production of diverse economically viable crops that are maintained in a sustainable rotation while supporting and enhancing wildlife habitat so that future generations can value, enjoy, and benefit from locally grown foods and the great diversity of wildlife present today.

OUR MISSION

DF&WT promotes the preservation of farmland and associated wildlife habitat on the Fraser River delta through sustainable farming and land stewardship.

OUR METHODS

Management of farmland is controlled and constrained by ecological, socio-economic and political factors, often within short time horizons. Under these conditions it is difficult to ensure that agricultural resources are conserved in a manner consistent with long term sustainable agricultural and maintenance of wildlife habitat capacity. DF&WT supports land stewardship practices that contribute to long-term agricultural sustainability and enhancement of wildlife habitat. The Trust does this by: 1) identifying appropriate farm management practices that will benefit soil and/or wildlife habitat conservation through review of local and international research programs, 2) providing information to local farmers with respect to the benefits and operational requirements of these practices, 3) raising funds to **cost-share** the wide-scale implementation of these programs with local farmers, and 4) evaluating the programs to ensure that they are effective. This approach has allowed farmers and conservationists to come together as "Partners in Stewardship."

Implementing a Cost-share: DF&WT's Grassland Set-aside program as a case study

The **Grassland Set-aside Stewardship Program** encourages farmers to plant fields with grasses and clover to restore the soil. The fields are "fallowed" for up to 4 years. Grassland set-asides benefit farming and wildlife by:

- Providing habitats for wildlife including grassland raptors, wading birds, songbirds, small mammals, and pollinating insects
- Improving soil fertility by increasing organic matter in the soil
- Helping farmers transition to organic production by spanning the 3-year certification period

Grassland set-asides support high densities of the Townsend's Vole, a small native mammal that is prey for a variety of raptors and wading birds. Set-asides also provide roosting habitat for ground-perching raptors, such as the Northern Harrier and Short-eared Owl.



Through this program, the Co-operator and DF&WT agree to implement and cost share the establishment and management of Grassland Set-asides in the Municipality of Delta or City of Richmond. The Co-operator agrees to seed their field with a combination of grasses (DF&WT recommends a specialty mix) and is responsible for ongoing management to ensure a thick cover is established. Management practices include the application of fertilizer or manure if required; weed control through mowing or selective cutting; soil surface ditching to reduce water ponding.

As per the written agreement established between DF&WT and the co-operator, mowing or harvesting a Set-aside cannot occur until after July 15 of any year, and harvest is limited to one cut a year. For a four year Set-aside which is coming out of the program, mowing, discing or ploughing down of the grass cannot occur before March 31 of the year of exit. The following is a summary of DF&WT cost-share rates according to Set-aside age:

- First year of Set-aside establishment - \$300/acre
- Second & third year of Set-aside - \$250/acre
- Fourth year of Set-aside - \$300/acre
- Set-aside aged 1-4 years with a hay crop harvested - \$150/acre

In this agreement, the Co-operator allows DF&WT to monitor the Grassland Set-aside for wildlife use, vegetation structure, or soil quality. Due to funding restrictions, DF&WT can fund up to a maximum of 550 acres Grassland Set-aside per year. Often co-operators waiting to establish a new Grassland Set-aside will be placed on a waitlist.

The Ecological Services Initiative

The Ecological Services Initiative (ESI) is in the process of developing an incentive based ecosystem services program for agricultural lands in BC and Alberta. This concept is focusing on a model that would function at the regional scale and includes a species at risk component. The following provides an overview of the ESI:

Ecological Services (ES) are benefits derived from ecological functions of healthy ecosystems, which are globally recognized as necessary for human health and well-being. Globally, incentivising the production of Ecosystem Services is a concept that has been garnering a tremendous amount of interest. There are many long term programs throughout the world that pay agricultural producers to maintain and enhance practices that result in an increase in Ecosystems Services. This type of incentive program is generally referred to as Paid Ecosystem Services (PES). Unfortunately Canada has lagged behind in establishing such programs. The Ecological Services Initiative (ESI) was created to demonstrate and test the concept to determine its viability in the Canadian context. The Ecological Services Initiative's objective is; to research and demonstrate a voluntary incentive-based model that encourages farmers to adopt or preserve Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) for the maintenance and enhancement of ecological services under their management control.

As a producer-led initiative, the ESI is made up of a team of experts focused on demonstrating, analyzing, and disseminating information on the concept of EG&S to a variety of interest stakeholders including producers, policy makers, government, public institutions, consumers, and others.

Program Phases

The ESI is divided into three phases:

Phase One, the development and testing of the model. Phase One started in 2010 with the initiation of a three year demonstration project, funded in part by the East Kootenay Conservation Fund. This project established the initial demonstration site. This phase involved conducting an initial assessment of the demonstration site to establish an Environmental Farm Plan and accompanying BMPs. Recommended changes to the site have included the maintenance of a fence to exclude cattle from a portion of the riparian zone designated for the project, and the fencing off of the nesting site of the endangered painted turtle in the same area, which in turn required the creation of a new winter watering site. Other components of this phase include an in-depth literature review, interviews with global ES experts, the establishment of program management and delivery teams, and engagement with key stakeholders regarding the ES concept and results from the demonstration site.

Phase Two of the project is now underway it is the development of an interprovincial ES Research and Demonstration Project. This phase built on what was learned in Phase One and has established an additional 30 demonstration sites with a variety of commodity producers in different regions across the BC and Alberta. Biological and economic results have been monitored and communicated and are being communicated to stakeholders. This phase will help determine the viability of the concept in the larger provincial context and lay the ground work for Phase Three. The results from the initial demonstration phases indicate that a long-term concept is viable.

Phase Three will facilitate the implementation of this long-term EG&S Program for the province of British Columbia.

Conclusion

The ESI's main goal is to create and maintain an established, long-term, financially sustainable, ecological services program. Other aspects of the Initiative include research of PES efforts globally, research of long-term funding solutions, and an information project which will use collected information to establish a collaborative, web-based information exchange system for producers, government officials, NGOs, and other stakeholders. The Initiative is supported by the BC Agriculture Council, BC Cattlemen's Association, University of Alberta, Simon Fraser University, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, BC Ministry of Environment, Environmental Farm Plan Program, Ducks Unlimited, University of Montana, the Columbia Basin Trust, Regional District of the East Kootenay Conservation Fund, and the Windermere District Farmers Institute. The Program Delivery Team is a team of individuals and institutions who will be delivering this project:

Wanda Gorsuch, EG&S Expert; King Campbell, Ducks Unlimited; Dr Nancy Olewiler, Simon Fraser University; Dr Peter Boxall (Economist) and other EG&S experts from University of Alberta; University of Montana Field School; contracted specialists; Dave Zehnder, Consulting Project Co-ordinator & Rancher; Agricultural Producers (at demonstration sites); and Shizu Futa, Certified Professional Bookkeeper. Pedro Lara Almuedo and Don Gayton, extension specialists with FORREX, are also providing consultation on the program's extension and communication aspects.

Contact Information

For further information, please contact *David Zehnder*,
Program Co-ordinator, Ecological Services Initiative
Website: <http://bcesl.ca>
Email: dzehnder@telus.net.

MISSION CREEK RESTORATION INITIATIVE – ABOUT US

Formed in 2002, the Mission Creek Restoration Initiative (MCRI) is a multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder undertaking with a goal of restoring the lower section of Mission Creek - from East Kelowna Road Bridge, downstream to Okanagan Lake - to a more natural condition. The MCRI has approximately \$800,000 in secure funds at present.

Spearheading this complex initiative is a dedicated “Working Group” comprised of representatives from local, provincial and federal governments; non-government organizations; and First Nations. Members of the Working Group include:

- Central Okanagan Land Trust
- City of Kelowna
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Friends of Mission Creek
- Ministry of Environment
- Okanagan Nation Alliance
- Regional District of Central Okanagan
- Westbank First Nation

ABOUT MISSION CREEK

Mission Creek was granted "BC Heritage River" status in 1997 by the BC Heritage Rivers Board. Mission Creek accounts for approximately 1/4 of all water entering Okanagan Lake each year. The importance of this tributary is further increased given that the turnover rate for water in Okanagan Lake averages approximately 51 years.

The origin of Mission Creek is Mission Lake (1,860 metres) in the Greystoke Mountain Range east of Kelowna and is largely fed by winter snowpack.

Historically, the Mission Creek main channel was 60 to 80 meters wide on average and approximately 30 kilometres long through the City of Kelowna. Currently, the stretch of Mission Creek flowing through Kelowna averages 31 meters across and is just 11 kilometres long.



ABOUT MISSION CREEK - ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Mission Creek is the largest stream for creek-spawning kokanee salmon in the Okanagan. Kokanee salmon are considered a “keystone” species for their numerous interactions with other species. Kokanee are also considered an indicator species for overall ecosystem health given their high sensitivity to habitat changes (e.g. reductions in water quality). Historical estimates from the 1950s suggest 700,000 to 1.2 million fish spawned in Mission Creek per year. By comparison it is estimated that only 17,000 kokanee spawned in Mission Creek in 2010.

Mission Creek and its associated riparian zone are known to host numerous species at risk or concern. “Red-listed” (endangered) species associated with this area include: Black Cottonwoods, Lewis’ Woodpecker, Western Screech-owl and Yellow-breasted Chat. In addition, “blue-listed” (at-risk) species include: Gopher snake, Racer, Western Rattlesnake, Painted Turtle, Great Basin Spadefoot, Great Blue Heron, Long-billed Curlew, Townsend’s Big-eared Bat and Spotted Bat.

ANTICIPATED BENEFITS: A MULTIPLE BOTTOM LINE APPROACH

The MCRI proposes a variety of cost-shared initiatives to enhance the community's social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being while ensuring a number of concurrent regional and Provincial benefits as follows:

1. Flood Risk Reduction Project

- Replacement of substandard dykes
- Increase stream channel capacity

2. Species at Risk Protection and Recovery Project

- Critical habitat protection
- Species recovery and reintroduction

3. Fish and Aquatic Species Enhancement Project

- Increase fish habitat
- Increase suitable spawning areas

4. Cultural Enhancement Project

- First Nation cultural heritage
- Restore First Nation cultural connection to salmon (possibly reopen fishery)

5. Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Project

- Increase urban forest and the sequestration of greenhouse gases (i.e. CO₂)

6. Biodiversity Enhancement Project

- Increase biodiversity in the City and region
- Create east-west connectivity for wildlife

7. Tourism Enhancement Project

- Enhance the already successful greenway
- Increase recreational fishing tourism (i.e. catch and release)

8. Education Project

- Educate children and adults about aquatic and riparian ecosystems (e.g. Kokanee Festival)



KOKANEE SPAWNING IN
GRAVEL SUBSTRATE



REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO
OF DESIRED OUTCOME



Growing Forward 2

British Columbia
Environmental Farm Plan Program
2013 - 2018

What is Environmental Farm Planning?

Environmental farm planning is a no charge, confidential, voluntary process available to producers to identify both environmental strengths and potential risks on their farms. As appropriate, it includes a prioritized action plan to reduce the risks.



A consistent, national but flexible approach to Environmental Farm Plans

Under the Agriculture Policy Framework (2003-2008) and *Growing Forward* (2009-2013) Agreements, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), along with its provincial partners, developed a national approach on how Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) programs would be developed and implemented across Canada. This approach has been maintained with added provincial flexibility under the *Growing Forward 2* Agreement.

A recognized approach to EFP programs will bolster Canada's reputation as a grower and supplier of safe, high-quality foods that are produced in an environmentally responsible manner. While the approach is national, its flexibility takes into account regional, geographical, and climatic differences.

Why do we need Environmental Farm Planning?

Consumers increasingly base their buying decisions on a desire to support environmental sustainability. Producers have shown they are admirable stewards of Canada's agri-environmental resources—they apply many good environmental practices that increase their profitability and benefit the environment.

Working together, governments and industry are looking to accelerate efforts to reduce agricultural

risks and provide benefits to Canada's water, soil, air, and biodiversity resources. Environmental farm planning is the foundation of that approach.

BC Environmental Farm Plan Program

The BC Environmental Farm Plan Program will complement and enhance the current environmental stewardship practices of producers. Led by the province's agriculture and agri-food industry, this initiative will encourage producers from all parts of the province to adopt Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) that enhance agricultural sustainability and contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment.

Who will deliver the program?

The BC Agricultural Research & Development Corporation (ARDCorp) will deliver the program on behalf of the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and in co-operation with AAFC, and other partner agencies.

EFP Program Planning Advisors, with assistance from ARDCorp, the provincial and federal governments, and other agency partners, will provide producers with technical support to help them prepare their Environmental Farm Plans.



Principles and benefits

ARDCorp, in co-operation with the provincial and federal governments, is committed to making sure that the EFP process in British Columbia:

- is driven by producers;
- encourages voluntary participation;
- assures EFP confidentiality; and,
- encourages producers to implement their EFP action plans by providing funding that is directed to support on-farm actions to reduce agri-environmental risks.

By adhering to these principles, the EFP Program in British Columbia strives to:

- improve the sustainability of the province's agricultural industry;
- recognize producer efforts to manage their land in an environmentally sustainable manner;
- improve awareness;
- enhance marketing opportunities;
- improve the response to environmental incidents through contingency planning;
- demonstrate on-farm due diligence;
- reduce the need for additional environmental regulation; and,
- improve relationships with environmental agencies.

The “Planning Advisor” role

Through one-on-one meetings with producers, EFP Program Planning Advisors (PAs) help to identify strengths and concerns, suggest appropriate corrective measures, and assist in prioritizing action items. PAs will be responsible for developing management plans, approving environmental farm plans, and helping producers access incentive funding.

How does the program work?

Producers can participate in the program by:

- contacting a local PA;
- conducting a risk assessment of their farm or ranch, alone or with a PA's assistance;
- developing a plan to mitigate any identified risks; and,
- having a trained and recognized PA review and approve the plan.

Performing a risk assessment using the planning workbook

By conducting a risk assessment, producers will establish the current level of environmental health-related risks to various activities on their farm or ranch. This is accomplished using a specifically designed planning workbook, which the PA will provide. The results of the assessment will identify areas of concern on the farm or ranch that the producer may need to address to reduce environmental risks.

Developing an action plan

With a completed planning workbook, and with the help of a PA, the producer will develop an action plan to decide on the next steps required to manage the identified risks, and to determine the priority of the action items. The PA will be available to help establish priorities, develop potential on-farm solutions, and approve the finalized environmental farm plan.



What financial incentives are available?

PA's can help producers determine if they are eligible to apply for cost-sharing incentives under the *Growing Forward 2* Beneficial Management Practice Program to address environmental risks identified in completed farm plans.

Possible categories are:

- nutrient management improvements
- riparian protection
- grazing strategies
- irrigation planning
- integrated pest management
- shelterbelt development
- manure treatment
- farmyard runoff control
- wintering site management
- product and waste management
- CO₂, N₂O and CH₄ emission reduction

Who can apply?

To apply for incentive funding under the Beneficial Management Practices Program, producers must have:

- ✓ an approved and valid EFP
- ✓ a signed statement of completion
- ✓ the farm operation must have been in existence on or before January 1, 2008
- ✓ the farm property has "Farm Classification" for the current year
- ✓ the farm has a valid Business (GST) number

Implementing the plan

When all the high priority action items have been achieved the plan is considered implemented.

A certificate and gate sign may be obtained with the assistance of your PA.



Further Information

For more information on the BC Environmental Farm Plan Program including Planning Advisor contact information, and Beneficial Management Practice Funding, please contact:

B.C. Agricultural Research & Development Corporation (ARDCorp)

**230 - 32160 South Fraser Way
Abbotsford, BC V2T 1W5
604-854-4483
Toll Free 1-866-522-3447**

www.bcefp.ca

SALMON SAFE BC

How Marketing & Eco-certification can support Species & Ecosystems at risk in your community

Salmon-Safe is a certification program that recognizes progressive, environmentally friendly management practices on agricultural and urban lands to help protect Pacific salmon habitat and enhance water quality. Salmon Safe is an independent third-party certification program that helps educate and support land users, retailers and consumers about the importance of protecting healthy and functioning ecosystems and watersheds that are essential to salmon.

What is the history?

Salmon-Safe began in Oregon in 1996 and has quickly become one of the leading regional ecolabel – with more than 80,000 acres of farm and urban lands certified in Oregon, Washington and California – providing a new market-driven incentive for landowners to protect water quality and fish habitat.

Salmon-Safe was launched in British Columbia in 2011 by the Pacific Salmon Foundation and Fraser Basin Council. To date, Salmon-Safe B.C. has certified over 40 farms, ranches and vineyards and we are now piloting Salmon-Safe communities for the urban sector.

What lands are eligible?

The Salmon Safe program is available to BC municipalities and regional districts, farmers, developers and other landowners in both the private and public sector. Certification can be applied to **farms, ranches, vineyards, parks and natural areas, business and residential sites, colleges and university campuses**, in urban, suburban and rural settings. Land can be certified even if it has no watercourses on it. Land use activities, even those not immediately adjacent to streams & rivers, have long-term cumulative impacts on fish and other aquatic and terrestrial species, even those not currently at risk.

How does it work?

Salmon Safe certification is based on an independent review and inspection of land management practices, using criteria appropriate to the lands under review. On site evaluations are conducted by professional inspectors and are based on a thorough set of biologically-based guidelines developed by scientists and focused on:

- In-stream habitat protection and restoration
- Riparian and wetland protection and restoration
- Water use management (irrigation activities)
- Erosion and sediment control
- Chemical and nutrient containment.

Farm standards also include landscape-level biodiversity protection while urban standards also include storm water management. Site inspections will identify: (1) actions needed to minimize any negative impacts on the ecosystem and comply with the standards; (2) recommendations for continuous improvement of land management practices and promotion of ecosystem health.

What are the incentives to participants?

(In addition to promoting land stewardship and protecting species & ecosystems at risk)

For farmers:

- Market access and differentiation;
- Salmon-Safe certification is very accessible: at the moment, the certification is free for farmers and does not require excessive paperwork;
- Free marketing tools are made available for growers to promote their farm and produce as Salmon-Safe (e.g. Salmon-Safe farm sign, posters and banners for market venues, etc.);
- The program is very complimentary to organic certification, and non-organic farmers can qualify for Salmon-Safe.

For consumers:

- Salmon-Safe responds to a growing demand for green products and provides a tool to reward producers that adopt environmentally friendly practices. So far Salmon-Safe has generated a lot of interest and uptake.

For land managers & developers:

- Salmon Safe can help organisations increase operational efficiency by providing a comprehensive land management standard that can apply to multiple properties. The City of Portland has had all 250 of their municipal parks (over 10,000 acres) certified Salmon Safe and is now committed to have all of their municipal bureaus reviewed by 2015;
- Salmon Safe can reduce costs associated with excessive water consumption or use of chemicals by supporting efficient irrigation and drought resistant and pesticide free landscaping;
- Salmon Safe certification deepens your own brand of leadership and commitment to sustainability. Those who have been certified can display the brand on their premises, in customer service, in public relations and in business proposals and sales; anywhere you wish to communicate your corporate social responsibility commitments.

For industry:

- In sectors like wine, beer and spirits, Salmon-Safe can help differentiate B.C. products and increase their competitiveness against imported beverages.

To find out more about Salmon Safe in BC visit: www.salmonsafebc.ca

For more on Salmon Safe Agriculture:
For more on Salmon Safe Communities:

Costanza Testino 604-664-7664 (ext 118) ctestino@psf.ca
Marion Town 604-488-5365 mtown@fraserbasin.bc.ca
Amy Greenwood 604-488-5367 agreenwood@fraserbasin.bc.ca



Whatcom Conservation District

6975 Hannegan Road, Lynden, WA 98264 Phone: (360) 354-2035 x 3 Fax: (360) 354-4678
e-mail: wcd@whatcomcd.org

September 30, 2013

Payment for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvements Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Whatcom County Drainage District Re-vegetation Program

Government sponsored incentive programs in Washington State have been successful in establishing stream buffers along fish bearing waterways. Programs target agricultural lands but have also been used to plant and maintain riparian buffers on rural lands.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

This program is funded by the Federal Government (Farm Service Agency) and Washington State (Conservation Commission). Landowners sign a contract with the Federal Government agreeing to lease an area along fish bearing streams ranging from 35' to 180' wide. All costs of planting and maintaining native trees and shrubs are covered by the program, there is no cost to the landowner. In return landowners receive annual rental payments for the land taken out of production. Rental payments are calculated based upon 2x the average rental rate of the land based upon soil type. Rental rates can range from \$300 - \$900 per acre.

CREP has existed for 11 years and now has 1,021 contracts in place statewide. 13,662 acres along 735 miles of streams have been planted with more than 5 million trees. 1 million of these are in Whatcom County.

Whatcom County Drainage District Re-vegetation Program

In Western Washington good drainage is essential to productive agricultural land. In Whatcom County most of the main agricultural drainage channels are also salmon bearing streams. In the past landowners and Drainage Improvement Districts could dredge out these streams when needed to maintain drainage. However this practice has been curtailed over the last 20 years due to concerns about fish stocks. Twelve years ago Whatcom County found that planting dense native shrub hedgerows along streams after drainage maintenance accomplished two goals: 1. The planting served as mitigation for the environmental damage caused by the drainage maintenance and 2. The plantings created enough shade to eliminate reed canary grass growth in the stream channel. Since the invasive grass was what trapped sediments and clogged drainage the planted streams are now flowing and draining better than ever. Landowner do not receive compensation for the land taken out of production, however hedgerow plantings are typically only 15' wide so very little land is taken out of

production. The incentive for landowner participation is that they will receive permits to maintain drainage. Landowners who do not agree to hedgerow type plantings or other means of mitigation are denied permits.

Funding for this program is from Washington State (Department of Ecology) and Whatcom County. To date 54 miles of stream have been planted in Whatcom County with over 276,000 native trees and shrubs.

Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program

The **Islands Trust Fund** is a land trust supported by the Islands Trust, a federation of local governments for the Gulf and Howe Sound Islands. The Islands Trust Fund carries out the “preserve and protect” mandate of the Islands Trust using standard land trust tools, such as conservation covenants and land acquisition. The Islands Trust Fund also administers the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP), a policy instrument developed to encourage the protection of natural areas on the Gulf and Howe Sound Islands by providing a property tax incentive.

NAPTEP (Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program)

NAPTEP is a conservation tax exemption program offered jointly by the Islands Trust and Islands Trust Fund. NAPTEP provides an annual property tax exemption of 65% of the assessed value of land protected with a conservation covenant. By encouraging landowners to protect land with covenants, the program assists local governments in achieving their goal to protect ecosystem values without the need to spend tax revenue to purchase the land.

To apply for the tax exemption, a landowner registers a conservation covenant with the Trust Fund Board on their property's title, permanently protecting the natural values on their land. With a covenant on the property, the landowner is then eligible to receive a Natural Area Exemption Certificate from Trust Council, providing the tax exemption for the portion of land protected by the covenant. The exemption is applied automatically each year, and applies to all property taxes.

Legislation, Regulation, and Policies

The Islands Trust's power to provide property tax exemptions for conservation is provided in section 7.1 of the *Islands Trust Act*. The Act outlines which taxes NAPTEP provides exemption from, how a tax exemption certificate is issued, and the penalty if the covenant is breached and certificate cancelled.

The Islands Trust Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Regulation identifies the types of natural values and amenities eligible for the exemption program. They include relatively undisturbed areas that are:

- good examples of important ecosystems such as forests over 80 years old, woodlands, water features, sparsely vegetated natural areas, coastal bluffs, etc.
- key habitat for native plant species or plant communities
- critical habitat for native animal species in relation to breeding, rearing, feeding or staging
- special geological features

The Act required the Islands Trust seek the agreement of each regional district board before implementing NAPTEP on the islands in their jurisdiction. NAPTEP is currently available in every area of the Trust except Bowen Island Municipality.

More information can be found at

<http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/initiatives/privateconservation/naptep.aspx>

Financial Implications of NAPTEP

The tax exemptions available through NAPTEP do not decrease government tax income. To compensate, exempted taxes are shifted to other taxpayers in the tax jurisdiction. This practice is the same for other tax exemption programs (e.g. Homeowner Grants, Agricultural Land Reserve exemptions, Heritage property exemptions). Because taxes are shifted not just to other island property owners, but throughout regional districts and the province, our experience with NAPTEP is that for each new landowner who joins the program, non-NAPTEP island property owners see an increase in property taxes that amounts to pennies at most.

Successes

Since 2005, 22 NAPTEP covenants have been registered, protecting over 75 hectares of natural area. Landowners are generally satisfied with the tax-exemption they receive. There have been no major compliance issues to date. Interest in the program has steadily grown, and expansion of the program was recently approved for the islands within Metro Vancouver jurisdiction (Bowyer, Passage).

Challenges

The costs associated with registering a covenant, as well as the ongoing costs of annual compliance monitoring, present the biggest challenges. NAPTEP applicants are expected to pay for their own legal, survey and baseline costs, though some island-based conservancy groups have set up assistance funds with donations. Annual compliance monitoring is a regular budget item for the Islands Trust Fund, but of course increasing with each new covenant.

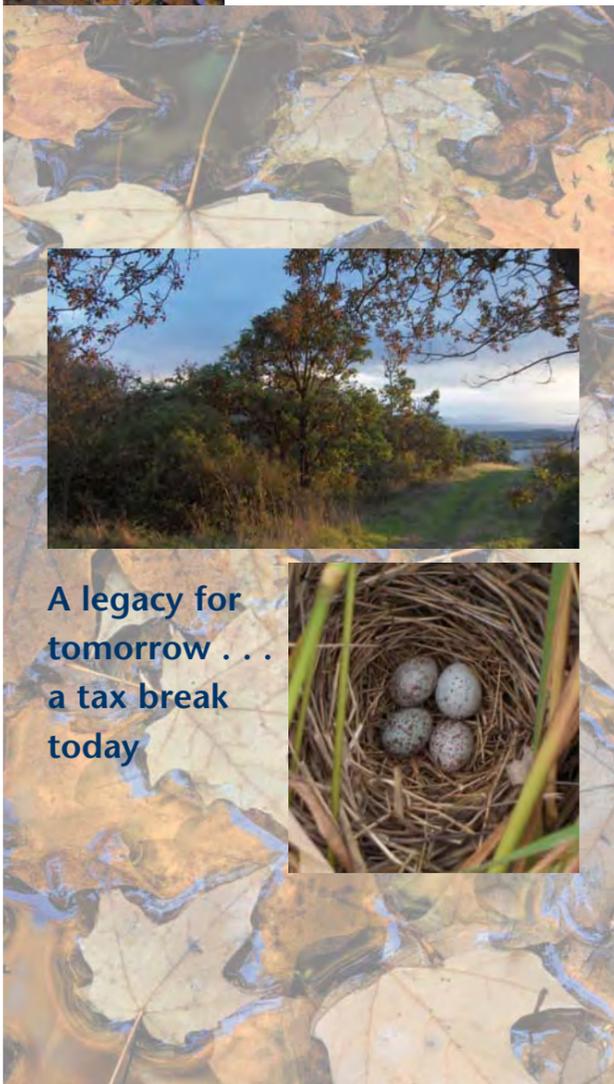
Applying a tax-incentive program more broadly would likely require legislative change. The process to enable changes to the Islands Trust Act, develop corresponding regulation and initiate implementation of the program was complex, taking 10 years.

Property Tax Incentive Programs in Other Jurisdictions

In 2008, the Province of Nova Scotia implemented the Conservation Property Tax Exemption program. The program exempts a landowner from paying property taxes on the portion of a property protected with a covenant (easement). The program also provides a grant to municipalities in lieu of taxes to compensate for lost revenue. For more information, visit <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/protectedareas/cpte.asp>

In 2009, the Province of Ontario introduced the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program. The program provides tax relief on properties identified by the Province as having eligible natural features. A covenant is not required, but applicants must prove the land is in a natural state. Applicants must apply for the program each year to receive the tax exemption. For more information, visit <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/CLTIP/index.html>

The ECOLOGICAL GIFTS PROGRAM



A legacy for tomorrow . . . a tax break today



The Ecological Gifts Program

Habitat loss and degradation are the greatest threats to biodiversity in Canada today. Many key habitats are found on private property, therefore landowners can play a vital role in their conservation.

Canada's Ecological Gifts Program provides a way for Canadians with ecologically sensitive land to protect nature and leave a legacy for future generations. It offers significant tax benefits to landowners who donate land or a partial interest in land to a qualified recipient. Recipients ensure that the land's biodiversity and environmental heritage are conserved in perpetuity.

Since 1995, hundreds of Canadians have donated more than 530 ecogifts valued at over 160 million dollars. Nearly half of the gifts received contain areas of national, provincial, or regional importance, and many include rare or threatened habitats that are home to species at risk.

What are the tax benefits?

Private and corporate landowners who donate property through the Program receive special income tax benefits. Donors receive a tax receipt for the full value of their ecogift that can be applied against 100 per cent of their net annual income. Corporate donors deduct the amount directly, while individuals use it to calculate a non-refundable tax credit.

Any unused portion of the receipt may be carried forward for up to five years, and there is no taxable capital gain.

Cover photos: © Arthur Holbrook, © Judith Hammond

An ecogift donation made to the Province of Alberta, the 2000-hectare Cross Conservation Area is a haven for many native species, and supports the highest concentration of Red-tailed Hawks in North America.

Photo © Russ Amy



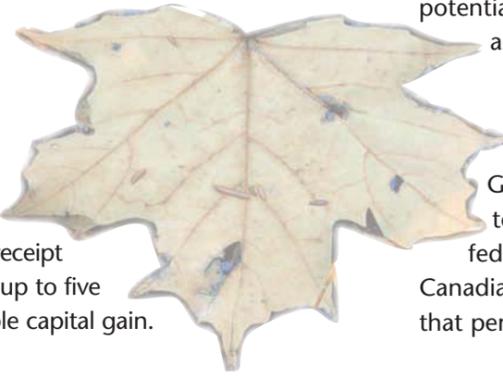
What is an ecogift?

An ecogift is a donation of land or a partial interest in land, such as a conservation easement, covenant, or servitude. In order for an ecogift to meet the requirements of the Ecological Gifts Program, the Environment Minister must certify the land as ecologically sensitive, approve the recipient to receive the gift, and certify the fair market value of the donation.

A wide range of lands have been protected under the Program, including forests, grasslands, wetlands, and shorelines. If your property contains features that have been conserved in their natural state, or there is good potential to rehabilitate such features, it may qualify as an ecogift.

Who receives the land?

Gifts of ecologically sensitive land may be donated to eligible environmental charities as well as to federal, provincial, and territorial governments, Canadian municipalities, and municipal or public bodies that perform a function of government.



There are more than 160 eligible charities across Canada, including land trusts and nature conservation groups. Other charities may request to be added to this list by writing to the Ecological Gifts Program National Secretariat.

What are my options?

Donating property does not necessarily mean severing the connection you and your family have with your land.

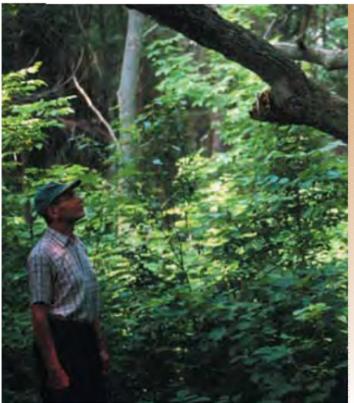
A variety of options are available to meet your needs and wishes—from donating the land outright to special agreements that allow you to retain ownership of your property.

What is involved?

If you are considering making an ecological gift, you should seek independent financial and legal advice. If you wish to proceed, select and contact a recipient to discuss your land, conservation goals, and land securement options. The recipient may help you prepare the documentation required to determine if your land qualifies as ecologically sensitive.

Concerned about the loss of wetland and woodland habitat in Ontario, Don and Ruth Bucknell donated a conservation easement on their 45-hectare property to the Nature Conservancy of Canada as an ecological gift.

Photo © Graham Bryan



Yellow Warbler Photo © Point Pelee National Park

Need more information?

If it does, Environment Canada will require an appraisal of the fair market value of your donation from a qualified appraiser, along with a signed application.

The review of appraisals normally takes up to 90 days. Donors are encouraged to initiate their donation early in the calendar year if they wish to use their ecogift tax benefits that same year.

Additional information and detailed publications on the Ecological Gifts Program are available through the National Secretariat and regional ecogift coordinators. You may also visit our national Web site at

www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/egp-pde

- National Secretariat: 1-800-668-6767
- British Columbia/Yukon: 604-940-4700
- Alberta: 780-951-8826
- Saskatchewan: 306-780-5322
- N.W.T./Nunavut: 867-669-4760
- Manitoba: 204-983-5264
- Ontario: 416-739-5828/4286
- Quebec: 418-649-6857
- Atlantic Provinces: 506-364-5044



Photo © Judith Hammond

APPENDIX D: INCENTIVE BREAKOUT GROUPS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROGRAMS (KOOTENAY AND CRD)

Strengths

CRD:

- ⇒ High level of public support for land acquisition
- ⇒ Large enough population base to raise significant \$\$
- ⇒ Consistent flat rate (\$20 per parcel)

RDEK:

- ⇒ Funds for both capacity building and projects
- ⇒ Time taken to poll/build public support provides momentum

Challenges

- ⇒ Only for land acquisition (no capacity for restoration or operating)
- ⇒ CRD: Limited amount of land acquisition in core area – land acquired may be in low density areas outside core – inequality for different land parcel sizes
- ⇒ RDEK: New jurisdictional model, difficult to implement
- ⇒ Acquisition based programs do not include stewardship /operational /development funds

Barriers

- ⇒ In CRD, more developed municipalities' residents may not want to subsidize (via levy) other municipalities natural values (urban vs. rural split)

Overcoming Barriers

- ⇒ Information gathering/public survey/public opinion polling/public outreach/information provision

COST-SHARING (DELTA FARM AND WILDLIFE TRUST)

Strengths

- ⇒ \$ is enough to make it doable but not enough to make profit
- ⇒ Improves soil condition – long term benefit for farmers
- ⇒ Can absorb changes in global demand for product
- ⇒ Farmers are looking beyond financial incentive – becoming a cultural practice (transferred to other generations)

Challenges

- ⇒ How to sell to new farmers (present to farmers groups regularly and get new farmers exposed to program)
- ⇒ Long term funding availability
- ⇒ Need a well organised group and need bottom up buy in and personal relationships with farmers

- ⇒ Some grass mixes may contain invasives
- ⇒ Conversion of agriculture land

Barriers

- ⇒ Not enough to cover value land – need to be able to show benefits
- ⇒ Works with rotation crops and potentially range lands, not in crops like grapes (e.g., low density grazing may improve habitat for species at risk)

Overcoming Barriers

- ⇒ Local coordinators who can develop relationships and have credibility with farmers

PAYMENT FOR ECOLOGICAL SERVICES (ECOLOGICAL SERVICES INITIATIVES PROJECT)

Strengths

- ⇒ Designed with broad applicability. Could scale up from regional to larger scale
- ⇒ Can use standards process and is transferable to other industries
- ⇒ Reasonably broad applicability that is one window
- ⇒ Collaborative in nature (government, NGOs and farmers) and identifies priorities and gives level of trust to do something meaningful. Partnership between land users.
- ⇒ Link with Environmental Farm Plan
- ⇒ Stated objective of getting paid for provision of EGS
- ⇒ Funders for conservation
- ⇒ Ranchers like recognition for contributions
- ⇒ Allows private land costs to be distributed to wider audience of payers
- ⇒ Helps landowners understand broader scope of values on property
- ⇒ Practical perspective added – link to connectivity is a benefit
- ⇒ Educational
- ⇒ Regionally specific
- ⇒ Value in recognition
- ⇒ Non agriculture uses for species and ecosystems at risk

Challenges

- ⇒ Limited by capacity! (capacity to scale up)
- ⇒ Need to hone in on the EGS that are valued in a particular area
- ⇒ Difficult to prioritise when there are many EGS in many areas or over larger areas – this is a capacity issue because there are many ways to do it
- ⇒ It's not permanent
- ⇒ Getting someone to pay for provision of EGS
- ⇒ EGS is a complex concept – hard to convey, hard to market
- ⇒ Getting people to pay parcel tax – administration of setting this survey in motion and getting bylaw in place
- ⇒ Can it be applied outside farm/ agriculture applications – need to apply this to other areas e.g., forest, urban

Barriers

- ⇒ Needs to be implemented by group with credibility
- ⇒ Sustainable funding source needs to be identified
- ⇒ Hard to scale up to large scale due to difficulty prioritising between many EGS in many areas
- ⇒ Better awareness and linkages between special ES and specific actions by farmers/ranchers
- ⇒ Different values, different constraints for landowners
- ⇒ Setting scope, growing too big too fast

Overcoming Barriers

- ⇒ Have it undertaken by group with credibility (e.g., farmers have more credibility than ENGOS)
- ⇒ Tends to be regional funding to address regional priorities
- ⇒ Set up prioritisation system (e.g., VECs) and don't expect to pay everyone
- ⇒ Start small if funding a challenge, find appropriate champions that have regional respect
- ⇒ Province to promote to farmers
- ⇒ Local governments to support surveys/funding mechanism. Regional Districts as administrators with provincial support.
- ⇒ Collaboration at all levels

MITIGATION BANKING (MISSION CREEK RESTORATION INITIATIVE)

Strengths

- ⇒ Measure the success more easily
- ⇒ City infrastructure – HADD \$\$
- ⇒ Multiple environment benefits
- ⇒ Long term vision, long term project
- ⇒ Voluntary
- ⇒ Have held land that expanding ?/ section
- ⇒ Some land at great value because of development potential
- ⇒ Better policy than Fisheries Act unknown
- ⇒ Clarity around compensation
- ⇒ Higher quality habitat is valued higher
- ⇒ Opportunity to integrate with climate change adaptation – e.g., dyking to include extra habitat
- ⇒ Incorporated communication component
- ⇒ Support by DFO and Province
- ⇒ Plans embedded in Official Community Plan

Challenges

- ⇒ Significant costs because of land development
- ⇒ Need to make sure avoidance continues to be first focus
- ⇒ Need watershed principles for prioritized projects
- ⇒ Works for just the city – does not apply to non-city projects
- ⇒ Need agreement of private landowner to buy
- ⇒ Tracking projects and DFO coordination
- ⇒ Long term – need staff consistency

Barriers

- ⇒ Uncertainty around habitat compensation with Fisheries Act changes
- ⇒ Administration (who administers?)
- ⇒ Need for dedicated staff
- ⇒ No legislative teeth
- ⇒ Need enough infrastructure work to fund a large enough system

Overcoming Barriers

- ⇒ All about messaging for elected – flooding, tourism, species at risk etc.
- ⇒ DFO as regulator
- ⇒ NGOs and volunteers
- ⇒ Need for a communication coordinator

ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLANS

Strengths

- ⇒ 350 questions to provide high level overview
- ⇒ Works with farm planner who is trained (Conservation Data Centre)
- ⇒ Risk assessment funded by federal government; cost sharing with Province on implementation
- ⇒ 4700 farms since 2004; 1900 farms in province
- ⇒ Have the technical expertise in the field, working with farmer 1-1
- ⇒ Flexibility to meet different objectives like species at risk
- ⇒ Ability to augment / partner with other projects or programs

Challenges

- ⇒ Limited provincial level mapping information for ecosystems
- ⇒ Struggling with measurable outcomes as no large negative to compare against (no Walkerton)
- ⇒ No metrics included in rollout
- ⇒ Less money available and run out of \$\$ as it is first come first served and also merit based
- ⇒ Need to demonstrate effectiveness – difficult and there is no monitoring – expect other existing programs /agencies to monitor

Barriers

- ⇒ Province wants very specific metrics and no money for monitoring and providing metrics
- ⇒ Farmers dealing with government directly is a barrier – better to have a community based planner – avoid views of government forcing these regulations
- ⇒ Monitoring depends on others outside of the programs already doing monitoring
- ⇒ Need to integrate in other programs
- ⇒ When the money runs out, farmers do not see the benefit of doing risk assessment
- ⇒ Need better education – too much dependence on the money/incentive
- ⇒ “Turf” issues – need not to do in isolation

Overcoming Barriers

- ⇒ Moving towards targeted approach that may leave a species and ecosystems at risk and mitigate a specific problem
- ⇒ Target community watershed, species at risk
- ⇒ May partner with another funding body – layer with other programs e.g., ESI
- ⇒ Partner with Ardcorp on key principles
- ⇒ Partner with community to promote outcomes
- ⇒ Need to make more linkages to other organisations' like agriculture insurance and competitive advantage
- ⇒ For monitoring, need to pull in Province; other agencies like interior Health (e.g., for water quality)
- ⇒ Get University to do study on effectiveness
- ⇒ The SEAR LGWG – need a forum to ensure all aware of what is being done

MARKETING AND ECO-CERTIFICATION (SALMON SAFE)

Strengths

- ⇒ Widely applicable, multi-purpose, easily transferable
- ⇒ Based on multiple issues/concerns
- ⇒ Builds on trends of stormwater management issues, integrated stormwater management planning
- ⇒ Easily identifiable symbol of salmon
- ⇒ Easy branding, will resonate with public
- ⇒ Community based social marketing tie ins (e.g., pledge)
- ⇒ Versatile for the urban application
- ⇒ Provides greater awareness about salmon to the community
- ⇒ Branding – incentive for developers, get branding for good practices already doing
- ⇒ Free marketing, relatively easy

Challenges

- ⇒ More intense land uses (agriculture, golf courses)
- ⇒ Scaling up to satisfy demand
- ⇒ For farmers, language barriers exist
- ⇒ Spreading knowledge of the program
- ⇒ Creating a good fee structure that doesn't inhibit participation
- ⇒ Comingling issues
- ⇒ Costs for administration
- ⇒ Ability to keep up with demand, capacity
- ⇒ Responding to the capacity demined to operate the program full on after pilot
- ⇒ There would be huge expectations
- ⇒ Hard to use brand in larger retail in BC (can't tell which farm products came from)
- ⇒ Need more info/indicators about benefits of program
- ⇒ Price point – need appropriate fee structure in order to get buy in

Barriers

- ⇒ Competition with Environment Farm Plan
- ⇒ Lack of recognition in areas without healthy streams
- ⇒ Cost of the review/inspection
- ⇒ Capacity to manage expectations
- ⇒ Haven't tried in dairy because in BC does not sell straight to consumer, would be expensive to implement
- ⇒ Dairy/cattle - need to look at whole lifestyle of the animal

Overcoming Barriers

- ⇒ Urban Development Institute
- ⇒ Local governments
- ⇒ Farming associations (e.g., blueberry growers)
- ⇒ Talk to larger organizations e.g., BC Dairy
- ⇒ Early success stories, sharing information
- ⇒ Outreach/education
- ⇒ Presentations to councils or Environment Committees
- ⇒ Local governments to develop indicators for what is important to them/public

PAYMENT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS (WHATCOM COUNTY)

Strengths

- ⇒ Involves both fed and state programs - no requirement for trust fund
- ⇒ Direct payment is a good incentive
- ⇒ If society is benefitting, it makes sense for it to be government funded
- ⇒ Secure source from year to year
- ⇒ Voluntary with help from recruiters likely to be successful
- ⇒ Ongoing monitoring
- ⇒ Easy for landowner
- ⇒ No fundraising required
- ⇒ Under agriculture (not environmental) so small amount that flies under radar (secure funding year to year)
- ⇒ Drainage - net benefit to landowner so no payments

Challenges

- ⇒ Some are priority streams, some are not. No monetary difference
- ⇒ Because of public funding there is a need to keep justifying it
- ⇒ Issues re effectiveness and connectiveness
- ⇒ Spent \$\$ for 10 years but when lease ends lands can go back to other uses
- ⇒ Long term the buffer is not protected
- ⇒ Depends on finding a "win" for the landowner
- ⇒ Single species focus
- ⇒ Voluntary
- ⇒ Increasing land value
- ⇒ Diverts funds from competing interest but not really because agriculture \$\$

- ⇒ Bureaucratic
- ⇒ Paying people for something that should be good stewardship
- ⇒ Long term no protection (e.g., plantings not retained)

Barriers

- ⇒ Bureaucratic time to process application (regardless of 1 acre or 59 acres); Administration intensive
- ⇒ Lack of political will to protect
- ⇒ Expensive for government, government does everything once lands signs agreement (e.g., tree planting plans, monitoring)
- ⇒ Anti-government view can make it hard to get support for a program (lots of people won't sign lease with the fed government)
- ⇒ Not permanent, next landowner may not renew lease
- ⇒ Do we value restoration in Canada?
- ⇒ Lack of government funding esp over long term
- ⇒ Ability to guarantee funds
- ⇒ No protection on cessation of agreement
- ⇒ Expensive for BC – cost benefit analysis not available

Overcoming Barriers

- ⇒ Provide higher incentives for higher priority areas (and lower for lower)
- ⇒ Could lower program costs if simpler bureaucratic process
- ⇒ Peer pressures helps to get farmers to change their behaviour
- ⇒ Try to have \$\$ comes from non-government sources
- ⇒ Partner with another tool to increase funding when commodity prices rise
- ⇒ Link to sensitive streams and urban drainage issues
- ⇒ Local government is best positioned to manage local issues
- ⇒ Have some form of Trust, NGO
- ⇒ Instead have tax break for ecological services
- ⇒ Need incentives for resulting plantings to continue
- ⇒ Have some way to link to water use – required to maintain water rights
- ⇒ Tie responsibilities to access
- ⇒ Payment first ten years – long term tax as area value to species increases

TAX INCENTIVES (ISLANDS TRUST AND CWS)

Strengths

- ⇒ Simple
- ⇒ Flexible, rigour to program
- ⇒ Donors have confidence, strong disincentive to mess with it
- ⇒ Tailor made to Islands Trust
- ⇒ Easy to administer once in place
- ⇒ Strong financial disincentive
- ⇒ Ecogift – ability to use partial interest, powerful tool

Challenges

- ⇒ Reliance on NGO community
- ⇒ Cost of perpetual monitoring and enforcement
- ⇒ May not be fair
- ⇒ Not responsive
- ⇒ Templates for comments not being used
- ⇒ Costs to maintain and establish
- ⇒ Not attracting larger landowners
- ⇒ ALR – inconsistent decisions (but not always a bad thing)

Barriers

- ⇒ Availability of partners
- ⇒ Leg changes required for changes in tax structure
- ⇒ Land values – all lands not created equal
- ⇒ ALR restricts value of land
- ⇒ Change to Local government Act to allow other regional districts to offer tax relief
- ⇒ Land values affect use of tools
- ⇒ Need better evaluation criteria of individual parcels within a provincial/regional context

Overcoming Barriers

- ⇒ Guide on how to present to elected officials
- ⇒ Communication to elected that taxpayers are willing to pay more taxes to environment initiatives when they know here \$\$ are going
- ⇒ Province and UBCM for expansion of IT approach
- ⇒ Province to expand applicability of EGS values as part of ALR mandate
- ⇒ Better economic analysis tools and/or resources to evaluate different tools for regional/provincial purposes
- ⇒ All governments to support integrated approaches

APPENDIX E: EVALUATIONS

SYMPOSIUM

What was the best aspect of this symposium? Why?

Networking/connecting

- ⇒ integrated approach and participants with the focus on incentives
- ⇒ Networking and seeing what everyone's priorities are for next steps.
- ⇒ Connecting with others undertaking this work
- ⇒ Opportunity to connect with others working with/for local government on environmental issues/share approaches that work
- ⇒ Finally getting to meet face to face with the rest of the group
- ⇒ Connecting with colleagues.
- ⇒ Meeting new people and talking about leadership and innovation

Learning from others; keynote and case studies

- ⇒ learning what everyone else was doing and making critical contacts
- ⇒ Such a wealth of knowledge and experience in the room, great networking and shared learning opportunities
- ⇒ Hearing of success stories
- ⇒ being able to see what others are working on around the province
- ⇒ the discussion of case studies in the afternoon - although short and noisy it was good to have a chance to spend a bit more time to discuss options in detail.
- ⇒ Information on incentives
- ⇒ The wide array of incentive case studies presented. Along with providing a good understanding of all the incentive programs that exist in B.C., it generated thoughts on opportunities for collaboration and the role that local governments can play in supporting these initiatives.
- ⇒ Hearing about all the different initiatives
- ⇒ Learning about what other levels of government are doing with regards to species at risk protection. It is good to share ideas and learn the pros and cons about other projects.
- ⇒ Introductions and networking with others who are doing similar work or work in the same geographic area, providing an opportunity to create partnerships.
- ⇒ learning about innovative developing projects in other LGs. Inspiring!
- ⇒ I just attended Day 1. I can't think of a "best" aspect but there were a few really helpful aspects. Nancy's presentation, the case studies, the opportunity to talk to people that have implemented incentives, etc. all contributed to me feeling much better informed at the end of the symposium.

Other

- ⇒ The facilitator and format of the day. She got us through a lot of information and the day. I thought the format was great to hear and learn about new things but also to exchange ideas, e.g. the afternoon session.
- ⇒ So sorry but I didn't get permission to attend this meeting...not for lack of trying though!

What was the most useful piece of information that you learned?

- ⇒ I really enjoyed Nancy Olewiler's talk, and the economic perspective on the work we do.
- ⇒ the information on the various tools that Nancy provided
- ⇒ The details about using incentives -- from Nancy's overview and the case studies.
- ⇒ That there are a number of initiatives underway across the province and that we are not alone
- ⇒ That there a lot more incentives out there than I expected, however it is hard to know what to do if you don't have a local, active NGO to take the lead.
- ⇒ some local governments are using research to establish an ecological price for habitat.
- ⇒ Good to hear about the incentives, gives me some ideas for my region. Also good to hear what is actually working in other regions.
- ⇒ the array of opportunities for funding projects - but that that there was a significant amount of similarity to approach.
- ⇒ how to connect with our audiences
- ⇒ Incentives overview and break out groups.
- ⇒ Updates on projects from other regions and levels of government.
- ⇒ That most of us agreed that providing more incentives to private landowners is the way forward to protect SEAR.
- ⇒ 1) I was quite interested in the range of permanence of incentives- i.e. annual agriculture incentives up to permanent conservation covenants. It's probably important to have variety in the toolbox. 2) I'd be interested in more information on how LGs are drafting EDPAs to allow the LG to contract the environmental professional at the cost of the developer. That seems very important as we've received some questionable professional reports that were paid for by the developer for EDPAs. It makes the process of DPAs look shady and unreliable.
- ⇒ ecological gifts program
- ⇒ Information presented on incentive programs particularly the CREP program in the US (will help me talk to a local landowner about how to solve drainage problem) and ecological services initiatives project (hope to collaborate on this in Okanagan).
- ⇒ the work Dave Zender is doing
- ⇒ The Kootenays are very special
- ⇒ Information about the Guide to establishing a Regional Conservation Fund.
- ⇒ Learning from other local gov'ts directly - e.g. Todd Cashin.
- ⇒ I need to get my requests for travel approval in earlier!

What would you change for the next one (what could we improve)?

Attendance

- ⇒ Make sure that management supports staff attending, especially those who work directly with local governments.
- ⇒ Figuring out better ways to engage public and politicians

Format

- ⇒ Somewhat of a short conference to attend from out of region, could have started earlier on Monday
- ⇒ input from local governments regarding advantages and disadvantages of a transfer of density development credits (aka conservation banking)

- ⇒ while it's good to have breakouts by region, I think it's also very useful to mix up the regions as we often have a pretty good idea what each LG is doing in our region, but are not as aware of what LGs are doing in other regions.
- ⇒ More time for meaningful break out sessions with some collective actions coming out from the end of those. Next steps.
- ⇒ more time for case study discussion and less case studies so groups were not as small
- ⇒ Making just a little bit more time to mingle with attendees and make connections.
- ⇒ We got a little off task in the afternoon session b/c of confusion of what to write down or discuss...maybe simplify the activity somewhat?
- ⇒ A bit more networking time in the middle of the day. I'm always a bit exhausted at the end and need to get privacy, but some of the best conversations were in the breaks and felt a bit rushed. Maybe make breaks longer?
- ⇒ Identify targeted learning outcomes for the group, inputs desired from the group and how that will shape next steps.
- ⇒ As one of the presenter of a case study, I didn't mind having a few minutes for the presentation, but I didn't feel we had enough time for the breakout group sessions. We ended up spending at least 15 minutes of each half hour session answering questions about our program. Maybe having only one session of an hour instead of 2 of half hour, or allowing for two 45 minutes session would help.

Venue

- ⇒ Venue was not very good--noisy planes, crowded, and hard to see the screen from many areas.
- ⇒ larger room; it was a bit crowded
- ⇒ Although the meeting room was excellent - I found the whole casino thing kinda weird
- ⇒ The content was really good, but a different location might have been better (the room was pretty crowded and noisy with planes constantly overhead).

Please rate your overall experience at the SEAR Symposium

All attendees rated the symposium as "Excellent" (53%) or "Good" (47%).

Where would you suggest hosting the next symposium?

- ⇒ Interior somewhere?
- ⇒ Interior
- ⇒ Okanagan?
- ⇒ Perhaps the okanagan?
- ⇒ South Okanagan
- ⇒ Not in Victoria or the Lower Mainland
- ⇒ out side of the south coast - but that is always hard for transportaion and cost.
- ⇒ Always tough....coast locations likely to draw more people, but clearly there are people in interior that still need to be engaged. Could consider a meeting in Kamloops, if you could get a small core of people from North and Central interested in attending. Alternately, maybe helpful to lobby for budget to cover travel from more northern areas.
- ⇒ for a provincial scope meeting, Richmond is probably the best. Alternatively, a region that has some (yet to be defined) critical mass of groups and projects

- ⇒ Burnaby is more central
- ⇒ That location on transit, near the airport in Richmond was great
- ⇒ Richmond was a good location for access, otherwise somewhere else in the Lower Mainland where most of the delegates are from. The Okanagan could be a good choice given that region has a fairly well connected LG group
- ⇒ Richmond
- ⇒ Vancouver works well. Accessible to most.
- ⇒ In the lower mainland and accessible by skytrain.
- ⇒ I liked the location, lots of natural light and well connected; probably very convenient for most attendees. Any place in the Greater Vancouver area, as long as it is easy to reach with public transit would do for me.
- ⇒ I'm from the lower mainland so the location suited me really well.
- ⇒ On either side of the Strait, near ferries/floatplanes.
- ⇒ Vancouver Island

What themes or topics should we include? Do you have suggestions for speakers?

- ⇒ More of the same
- ⇒ follow up on incentives
- ⇒ Achieving protection of SEAR using LG tools (governance piece)
- ⇒ dealing with real estate development
- ⇒ Landscape permeability and SAR, How much habitat is enough, more of a regional landscape view and encouraging work across jurisdictional boundaries
- ⇒ walking through a hypothetical development application with species at risk concerns and covering a range of items such as key communication messages, requirements for best practices, integration with other development concerns. We could do the same development or different development in workgroups and report out.
- ⇒ Outreach tools? Doug Mackenzie-Mohr? Critical habitat and buffers? Holly Claremont?
- ⇒ perhaps having an evening session the night of the event where area local government politicians were invited, so they could hear some of the success stories?
- ⇒ Maybe specific example SEAR projects showing collaborations between multiple jurisdictions
- ⇒ perhaps more information on TEM and SEI and how this can be used by LG. or maybe education initiatives? or partnerships with NGOs?
- ⇒ Landowners. More landowners.
- ⇒ Communication: do you know who your audience is? What is your key messaging for your project? A multi-bottom line approach: what is it? Partnerships: how important are they?
- ⇒ Measuring success; ways in which to measure success with SEAR.
- ⇒ I thought the program was really great and "next time" will be informed by the feedback/direction given on the poker chip exercise...I guess it would be useful to have a discussion on how to leverage political support for SEAR issues. And perhaps get an overall idea of how many SAR have been listed, had recovery strategies written and crit habitat identified. I don't think that needs a session but it would be good to get an inventory of SAR over a couple of slides in a power point.
- ⇒ I'm not sure if they exist, but I'd be interested in topics about forested lands, managing them for SEAR and forestry and tools to do that. The agricultural topic was perhaps transferable, but I'd like to think about how.

- ⇒ You could focus on 'requests' for other groups. Clarify how other professionals and other groups/agencies could help environmental planners & coordinators do their job better. This could include timing of information sharing, role in approvals process, access to information etc. The next step could be developing targeted communications for specific groups/players. There are many people who are supportive of SAR, but they don't know how to help.
- ⇒ I wonder if it'd be possible to understand the public/consumers perspective on incentives. Can we do a survey and bring some associations to the table? Also, what role can organizations that support sustainable and local agriculture (but that do not necessarily have a conservation focus) play in getting more landowners on board with incentives? I'm thinking FarmFolk/CityFolk for example, or even Farmers Market associations.

Other comments and suggestions on symposium

- ⇒ I thought it was a great symposium that allowed professionals to learn and speak with each other. I was very impressed with the depth of the speakers and the organization when considering how limited resources are.
- ⇒ So great to be in a room with people that are working towards SEAR protection in their LGs, can sometimes feel lonely!
- ⇒ Well facilitated, good timing & pace (sorry I missed the field trip!)
- ⇒ The facilitation was exceptional, and the day quite dynamic - never saw anyone yawning! I also truly enjoyed Nancy Olewiler's presentation.
- ⇒ Thanks to all the organizers -- it was very worthwhile!
- ⇒ Good venue, facilitator was quite good, good to have time to connect with others in my region
- ⇒ Times over two days worked well.
- ⇒ field tour is a nice addition
- ⇒ room was a bit too small for the number of attendees
- ⇒ Just sorry I couldn't attend :-{

FIELD TRIP

Was the field tour of the stewardship practices helpful?

Respondents unanimously said the field trip was helpful.

- ⇒ There was a large focus on the history of the park, but less detail on the actual stewardship practices.

Which of these stewardship practices would be most applicable to your community?

- ⇒ Looking at multiple uses, so exposure to wider group of the population
- ⇒ We already have an incentive program, but I am interested in exploring other options presented.
- ⇒ Balancing farming on municipal land with natural features and recreation.
- ⇒ methods for removing reed canary grass.

What are the biggest barriers and benefits to implement these practices in your community?

- ⇒ having difficulty getting LG to fulfill current obligations working with NGOs, loss of environmental staff planners
- ⇒ Cost, complexity and legislative change
- ⇒ Floodplain management and competing interests.
- ⇒ cost is the biggest barrier. We have a lot of reed canary grass, so this could be useful to us.

TOOLS AND INCENTIVES

Of the tools and incentives discussed at this symposium, which would you like to learn about in more detail?

- ⇒ many of the tools that Nancy discussed in her presentation would be really interesting to know more about (i.e. development impact fees, transfer of development rights, etc.)
- ⇒ The Bushtender program (auction)
- ⇒ ecological gifts, land tax relief like Islands trust, transfer of real estate development credits
- ⇒ Knew about most of them already; in our region...we will be pursuing conservation funding (similar to Kootenay Conservation Program) and I am personally interested in the ecological services pilot (Dave Zender).
- ⇒ Financial
- ⇒ Biodiversity strategies (Surrey, Okanagan)
- ⇒ Environmental Farm Plans
- ⇒ habitat compensation banking
- ⇒ Conservation Finance
- ⇒ SCCP work & SAR Primer
- ⇒ Implementing and improving ecological networks through development permits. How to implement "Development Impact Fees" (charging for investing in ecosystem integrity like investing in schools and roads etc.)
- ⇒ The Whatcom County CREP program
- ⇒ I'd like more info on the agricultural cost sharing incentives, especially if there's a way to apply them to forestry. I'd be interested in learning more about the reverse auction for land acquisition.
- ⇒ It would be great to have all the info provided online, a database about what others are up to and where to go for more info.
- ⇒ BC Environmental Farm Plan Program - I've heard through the grapevine the program may slightly change in the near future.

What would help your local government to motivate private landowners and developers to conserve SEAR on private lands?

- ⇒ Public recognition programs/incentives, tax relief
- ⇒ land tax relief, formal recognition of the ecological goods and services provided by private landowners and how they contribute to the Official Community Plan and transfer of real estate credits

- ⇒ Development of incentive programs and education will be required regardless of who implements SEAR conservation, but local government doesn't have the resources to do this and doesn't have the will in many areas to take on this task...which is particularly daunting in areas of the province where SEAR are common.
- ⇒ Dave Zanders work, working with agricultural community
- ⇒ Education and awareness is key, but some sort of financial incentive would really help.
- ⇒ Provincial requirements that are clearer, strength for Wildlife Act
- ⇒ Knowing where they are in advance of development proposals. Giving property owners succinct information about identification and management.
- ⇒ legislation is the best option. There is little willingness amongst politicians and many staff to require additional protection of land without a legal requirement pushing us to do so.
- ⇒ Financial Incentives. Someone else to take the job on. Financial commitment from the Federal and Provincial government
- ⇒ value to land owners and local government in protecting of SEAR - hard facts - value for money where possible
- ⇒ Incentives
- ⇒ More tools: both regulatory and incentives.
- ⇒ Awareness, improvements to the Species and Ecosystems at Risk website to make it more friendly to public. Initiatives like the Greenshores rating system and salmon safe certification system aimed at species at risk that motivate people to protect/conservate habitat and develop land appropriately.
- ⇒ Maps, communication etc that show where SEAR exist and benefits of conservation (ecosystem goods & services); leadership from other local, regional and provincial organizations/governments.
- ⇒ A range of options from less permanent to more permanent. A bit of funding to help develop incentives (this could happen at the LGWG level rather than funding to my LG)
- ⇒ N/A
- ⇒ n/a - regional district with very little direct land use oversight.
- ⇒ Not sure.

What, in your opinion, is the greatest barrier to SEAR protection on local government and private lands?

- ⇒ Lack of knowledge, limited resources
- ⇒ Lack of public awareness and education, lack of clear requirements, resource capacity for provincial ministries to assist LG
- ⇒ Not understanding what the rules are.
- ⇒ Private landowner awareness and understanding.
- ⇒ perhaps having a short communications piece that succinctly describes the multiple value of ecological lands, for local government staff & most importantly, politicians, when making rezoning & development application decisions. A "go to" paragraph to help them do the right thing.
- ⇒ besides lack of legislation, it is knowledge about SEAR and the benefits protecting SEAR has for the community
- ⇒ lack of support at the community level
- ⇒ Complex legislation, inconsistent legal opinion and lack of resources
- ⇒ Lack of capacity

- ⇒ lack of innovative approaches and lack of integrated approaches
- ⇒ FEAR of regulatory consequences if locations are known; lack of education on how to conserve and on regulation requirements.
- ⇒ just focusing on SAR; lack of LG environmental staff and/or capacity; political will to take on some of the tools and incentives
- ⇒ Lack of senior government policy and "hammer" to actually make private land owners protect SEAR.
- ⇒ apparent tax burden and unwillingness to commit to protecting a resource that belongs to everyone on what property owners (and cities) perceive as THEIR LAND and you can't tell/suggest to them as to what to do on that land
- ⇒ No regulatory tools.
- ⇒ Lack of leadership to protect SEAR and knowledge of SEAR. There are no regulations that compel private land owners to limit development of critical habitat.
- ⇒ We need buy in from private landowners, so the incentives need to be attractive. This will likely require funds and it's unpopular to raise taxes.
- ⇒ SEAR protection is protecting a public good, development is often people making the most their private good.
- ⇒ The majority of private landowners and local governments still don't see the economic value of SEAR protection, hence the need of incentives. In this sense, the greatest barrier is that most of incentive programs available are understaffed because of tight budgets, making it hard to scale up operations. They also likely rely on external funding to operate and are not sustainable in the long run.

Are there non-regulatory steps that the federal or provincial government should take to encourage SEAR conservation on private lands?

- ⇒ Public recognition/incentives, property tax relief (although this may involve some regulatory pieces, more outreach in the form of news article releases (what's growing in your neighborhood?))
- ⇒ provision for purchase of ecological goods and services
- ⇒ SEAR conservation is a daunting task and trying to download those responsibilities to local governments is unlikely to be successful without significant leadership and demonstrations from all levels of government that each is pulling its weight, that SEAR conservation is a high level priority. I see lots of energy going into demonstrating the priority in supporting development (pipelines, IPPs, liquid natural gas, mining...), but you don't hear much about the importance of conserving SEAR. If this is a priority, there has to be targeted communications saying what the priorities are and how federal and provincial governments are making it their priority too. Communications to date have been very complex (from federal government) and not clear. I'm not sure that in our region (Okanagan), the role of the province is understood at all. Mostly landowners are not interacting with the province, although they are supporting in the background, to the extent possible.
- ⇒ leadership
- ⇒ yes, outreach and education, utilizing (and funding) community groups/land trusts
- ⇒ provide advisory role for LG with adequate staff resources, referral process for sites with SEAR high priority concerns
- ⇒ Tighten legislation. Create a registry for support to landowners that would put them in charge with scientists. Create reliable funding for NGO's who are providing these services.

- ⇒ To step forward & lead by example & highlight lands owned by Fed/Prov government that protects SEAR. Make it a communications piece....the great work we do.
- ⇒ provide fact sheets to assist LGs and private land owners with ID and guidance materials
- ⇒ i think that many of the economic incentives outlined in the report by Teri Blackburn are worth pursuing, in particular, direct payment is worth exploring more. Some of the incentives she identified require legislation to be in place in order for them to work so they're off the table until provincial legislation is in place.
- ⇒ Financial incentives
- ⇒ parcel tax and stronger bylaws - such as stream bank protection and tree/vegetation removal
- ⇒ education, education, education!
- ⇒ More incentives. Specifically, more tax breaks for land owners.
- ⇒ Funding and technical support to assist local governments work towards this end.
- ⇒ Sharing of information, tools & incentives and leadership. However, with respect to leadership I have no expectation for the province or feds to speak highly of conserving SEAR in place of permitting development. Why? B/c local gov'ts don't like being "bossed" (and the feds and prov know this) and also higher levels of gov't conserve SEAR when convenient.
- ⇒ Provide some funding to the SEAR LGWG or to LGs to develop incentive programs! Ideally funding would be ongoing with a higher amount to do the start up. It would also be good to look at using some of the funding for cost sharing for land conservation of agricultural and forestry lands.
- ⇒ Fun more research, education and communication work around the personal and public health benefits of nature (both time spent in nature and views)
- ⇒ Support the existing incentive programs with in-kind and, where possible, cash support; explore other government-led programs like the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program adopted in Whatcom County.

Is there a stronger role that non-government partnerships (e.g., SCBC, SCCP, SOSCP) could play in improving SEAR conservation efforts in various regions? How?

- ⇒ Again participate in public recognition, participate in the above preparation of articles.
- ⇒ probably but undefined in my mind; probably more integration amongst the various groups
- ⇒ Looking at regions where these do not exist (e.g. Thompson-Nicola and Cariboo-Chilcotin), I can see value in trying to initiate partnerships in these areas as some work is better accomplished at arm's length from government....for partnerships....I would focus on that and let existing partnerships figure out what they need. I suppose my greater frustration is the sense that we aren't putting sufficient resources and leadership at higher levels (province and federal) to show the country that SEAR conservation is a national/provincial priority.
- ⇒ yes but capacity to do this is a problem
- ⇒ carry on, doing a good job
- ⇒ I don't know what these acronyms are. But, we could sure use some help with identifying/creating incentives for private property owners.
- ⇒ Connect the dots (keeping everyone informed, bring them together, develop best practices for certain types of land uses)
- ⇒ yes. I see them as the glue that helps connect multiple jurisdictions and regional government staff throughout a region.
- ⇒ I think that NGOs are really important for the education side of things. LG staff don't have time to spend on this and in many LGs likely don't have support from senior management or politicians to spend time/resources on an issue that many perceive to be not our responsibility. If a direct

payment system was in place they could be one of the organizations helping to run the program. They can also play a larger role in ecogifting.

- ⇒ Yes, with the corresponding capacity. No, without the long-term capacity.
- ⇒ yes
- ⇒ continue to make the connections between local govt; NGOs and the community
- ⇒ Not sure.
- ⇒ Yes. They can link/contact LG's directly.
- ⇒ Yes - they could facilitate the regional discussions for incentives as there are some incentives that are less/more attractive based on region. Don't forget the CDFCP! :)
- ⇒ Helping the public see the public and private benefits.
- ⇒ Strengthen the relationships with other conservation no-profits that could help with field work, research and outreach. Also, as per provincial and federal government: support incentive programs available to landowners. For example, Salmon-Safe is currently collaborating with SOSCP to make sure we take into account the SEAR priorities for the Okanagan region when making recommendations to local farmers that are undergoing certification. On the other hand, SOSCP is spreading the word about Salmon-Safe among its network.

And finally... Any comments or suggestions for an improved name (and acronym) for SEAR LGWG? One that is shorter and more reflective of our role?

- ⇒ Why not just create a snappier acronym like LSAR. Local species at risk.
- ⇒ something that is clearly positive....the opposite of risk....Local Governments Protecting Ecosystems& Species???
- ⇒ SEAR Action Team (although SEARAT may not be a good acronym!, maybe SEAR-AT)
- ⇒ I wonder if we should be changing the name to be about habitat conservation. I believe this is more supportable by the general public than protecting SEAR.
- ⇒ Local Governments for Nature, Local Governments Making BC Beautiful, Local Governments for Beautiful BC... I don't know, I'm bad at this! Something more about nature and less about SEAR (although that would be our purpose)
- ⇒ I like the SEAR part... it's the LGWG that makes it too long
- ⇒ the name tells the truth - but the acronym is the mouthful.
- ⇒ Nope
- ⇒ Hmm, need to think on that a bit!
- ⇒ ...will think about that more. :)
- ⇒ sorry!
- ⇒ I'm afraid not! But if something comes to mind, I will contact you!